SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH
EXHIBIT NO. 2
DATE 4/11/13
BILL NO. HB619

Good Morning, Mr./Mrs. Chair and Members of the Committee. My name is Tonya Shellnutt, and I am the state director for Concerned Women for America of Montana. CWA is the nation's largest public policy women's organization with over 500,000 members nationwide and over 2,100 members in Montana.

We strongly support HB619. This referendum allows for the conservative woman's voice of Montana to finally be heard. For years our voice has been stifled by the Montana Constitution. The current constitution verbiage violates our conscious and wrongfully requires us to fund an agenda that puts little value on life.

In 2011, Planned Parenthood performed 333,964 abortions. Abortions made up 92% of Planned Parenthood's pregnancy services. In 2011, Planned Parenthood received a record $542 million in taxpayer funding. Taxpayer funding consists of 45 percent of Planned Parenthood's annual revenue. You can see how this flaw in our constitution is creating an opportunity for our tax payer's money to contribute to the rise in abortions in our state. The recent rise in teen pregnancy is a result of comprehensive sex education being taught in our schools and the absence of abstinence programs. I am sure I am not the only one who can see the connection between the withdrawal of abstinence only programs and the increased revenue from abortions performed.

Concerned Women for America urge you to give this referendum serious consideration and allow the citizens of Montana to vote on this issue. With 59% of the population of the U.S. saying they are pro-life, it is time for Montana to allow the voice of conservative women to be heard and the life of the unborn to be protected?