

EXHIBIT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

2.15.13

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

HB 123

**TESTIMONY OF DARWIN NELSON ON HB 123**

Before the Senate Public Health, Welfare  
and Safety Committee  
February 15, 2013

Mister Chairman, members of the committee for the record my name is Darwin Nelson. I live in Helena. I am the President of Helena Kiwanis Aktion Club, a self-advocacy organization, and I am a member of the Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities.

I grew up in Bozeman with a supportive family and friends. When I was in High School I received services through a Resource Room in my Junior and Senior years. I was fortunate to be in typical classes for the majority of my school day.

I have worked at the Helena Independent Record newspaper for over 26 years operating the inserter machines. That's right, you can thank me for all of the ads and flyers in your daily newspaper.

I have been involved in self-advocacy for people with disabilities for all of my life. I can't tell you how many times I have heard people use the word "retard" when talking about a person with disabilities.

This is hurtful, mean-spirited and uncalled for - people with disabilities are PEOPLE, and not a label.

From all of us who have been called this name, I'm asking you to do the right thing and please pass this bill. Thank you

