

EXHIBIT NO. 6DATE: 2.15.13

District VIII

Office of the Past Chair HB 28

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February 15, 2013

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Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Kathy Nelson. I am an obstetrician/gynecologist in Kalispell, Montana. I am presently at the end of serving a three year term as the chairman of the Montana section of ACOG (The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists).

I also presently serve on the Flathead County Fetal, Infant and Child Mortality Review Team, also known as FICMR.

The mission of the Fetal, Infant and Child Maternity Review is to identify, address and potentially reduce preventable fetal, infant, and child deaths in the state of Montana, and to make recommendations for community and statewide change. We would like to add Maternal Mortality to this review in an effort to potentially reduce preventable deaths of our moms as well as our children.

FICMR is a multi-disciplinary association made up of members of law enforcement, social services, medical services, tribal organizations and public health.

Since FICMR was established in 1999, the Montana FICMR process has identified a number of preventative measures as a result of their reviews. These include:

- implementation of the graduated driver's license,
- distribution of educational materials that address prevention of sudden infant death, gun safety, water safety, and premature birth,
- traffic lights have been placed at dangerous intersections,
- an automated external defibrillator is available at a football field,
- suicide prevention activities have been implemented in multiple sites across the state,
- education and checks for proper installation of infant car seats,

to name a few.

The bill is simple, uses current infrastructure, incurs no additional cost, and may prevent the deaths of Montana mothers.

I request that you pass this bill out of committee.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Kathy Nelson, M.D.