

Testimony against HB 455
Lisa Daniels
Stevensville, MT

My name is Lisa Daniels. I am 50 years old, and I live in Stevensville, in west central Montana. I live with my elderly mother and sister, and am a full time caregiver to my mother. I am asking you to vote no on HB 455.

Nancy Balance is my representative. But she is not representing the best interests of those who live in Stevensville by sponsoring this bill.

I left my small textile business and moved to Montana 2 years ago to be the full time caregiver to my 82-year-old mother, who has Parkinson disease and is a recent colon cancer survivor. I also provide assistance to my disabled sister.

When I moved to Montana, I was paying out of pocket for the individual health care plan I've had for years. I have had health insurance all my life. It was very important to my mother, who was a nurse her whole career. I had a modest savings account that I hoped would be enough to pay for my living expenses while caring for my mother. Neither she nor my sister can afford to pay me for my time. Unfortunately, the savings I worked hard to accumulate is now gone, and I had to cancel my health insurance because I can't afford it anymore.

I have worked and paid taxes, federal and otherwise, all my adult life. It is very stressful for my whole family that I don't have health insurance, the kind of stress that keeps us all up at night. Who will care for my mother and sister if I get sick or have an accident?

I'm sure that in these proceeding, there will be plenty of talk about money. Consider this - providing health care is just good economic sense. I have had asthma my whole life, and it gets worse with stress. Without the regular office visits I would get with a health plan, I am more likely to suffer a severe episode or attack. An affordable office visit is far less expensive than a trip to the emergency room, which I have no money to pay for, and the hospital and the government would end up picking up the tab.

HB455 doesn't help some one like me. I am not married, and I don't have children. But I work hard, I just need some temporary help

So please, vote no on HB 455.

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