EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3.9.15
SB 277

Independence and Control Through Self-Directed Care

To: House Human Services Committee

From: Katie Spaid, Program Manager

Date: February 11, 2015

Re: Testimony for Senate Bill 276 and Senate Bill 277

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Katie Spaid and I represent Consumer Direct Personal Care and Nightingale Nursing and Caregiving. We provide home-based services to over 700 individuals across the state so they can stay in their homes and communities, and avoid going to facilities. The care we provide includes personal care assistance, nursing, socialization, supervision, homemaker, respite, and transportation. We employ almost 800 direct care workers statewide that are providing care to those 700 individuals.

I am here testifying in support of **Senate Bill 276**. We would welcome and encourage a directory of providers. Recently agencies like ours have begun to roll out the Community First Choice program. Under this program, the participant who is receiving services is at the center of their "Person Centered Plan". This means the participant is in the driver's seat in terms of how they want their services delivered. A directory that would help empower the participant to evaluate each agency and pick the one they think will best serve their needs would support the Community First Choice vision. Agency information such as the average wage of caregivers, background check process, and information on health insurance that is all recorded in one place and given to the potential participant would provide a much needed perspective for the participant as well as simplify their effort to get enrolled in services. Currently, all participants receive is a list of provider agencies with their contact information. We don't think this is enough information to make a reasonable choice.

I am also testifying in support of **Senate Bill 277**. Our agency opposes the collection and publication of personal information specific to our employees by DPHHS. Citizens have a right to keep their personal information private. This specific group of employees should not be singled out to have their information shared because of the nature of their work. It is already extremely difficult to draw people to this line of work. The current demand of people needing services outweighs the workforce. If a person's private information is made public it will further discourage people from entering this field. If there is not staff to do the work it is reality that a high number of participants will not be able to remain in their homes and have to be a nursing home or other facility.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me at (406) 532-1609 or katies@consumerdirectonline.net.

Consumer Direct Personal Care
3301 Great Northern Ave., Suite 203
Missoula, MT 59808-1575

Phone: (406) 541-8700
Toll free: 1-866-438-8591
Fax: (406) 541-8704

Email: infoMT@ConsumerDirectOnline.net