EXHIBIT 11
DATE 2/10/15
HB 328

**House Judiciary Committee**
**Hearing on HB 328**
**February 10, 2015**

**TESTIMONY FOR HB 328**

Please keep the dangerous idea of assisted suicide out of Montana! Without it even being law, the talk of assisted suicide has made the idea of ending an elderly or ill relative's life sound acceptable and legitimate to some. I have a friend who was caring for her ill mother in her home, with the help of hospice. Before her mother was even completely bedridden, my friend's siblings overdosed their mother with meds left by hospice at my friend's home for pain relief. They wanted the money being spent on their mother's care, and they wanted it as soon as possible. My friend was devastated to lose her mother that way. Her mother had not wanted to die before nature took its course. But as it turned out, she didn't have a choice, did she?! And she wouldn't have had a choice if assisted suicide had already been legal, either.

Then there's the problem of suicide itself. We in Montana have one of the highest suicide rates in the nation – with teen suicides all too common. Our governor has formed a commission to study how to deal with our suicide crisis and prevent our people from taking their lives. Oregon statistics show that suicide in general (not counting assisted suicides) has increased considerably there since they legalized assisted suicide years ago. It is logical to think that such will be the case here, too, if we legalize assisted suicide, because human nature does not vary from state to state. So on the one hand we want to legalize suicide for some, and on the other hand we want to find a way to stop suicide for others. If that isn't talking out of both sides of our mouths, I don't know what is. Is suicide right or wrong? Do we want more suicide or less suicide in Montana? We can't have it both ways.

So among other things, assisted suicide would put the elderly and the terminally ill in harm's way. It would make suicide a legitimate solution to problems. It would cheapen life by making the intentional ending of it seem noble. None of those are things we want in Montana.

Please vote FOR HB 328.

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