



March 11, 2015

Representative Edie McClafferty
Montana House of Representatives
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Education and Cultural Resources

Chairman Brown & members of the Committee:

As superintendent of the Butte School District, I stand in support of HB 374. HB 374 would provide opportunities for all educators to receive the necessary on-going training relating to youth suicide awareness and prevention. This bill also serves as a safeguard, ensuring that all Montanans remain focused and committed to providing evidenced based suicide prevention programs.

Awareness and education are keys to prevention. It is imperative that educators know how to recognize signs of concern of a youth at-risk and are prepared to react when they see these signs. This bill would ensure that all educators have access to evidenced based training programs that focus on developing these skills.

I would like to thank Representative McClafferty for sponsoring this bill. And on behalf of the Butte School District, respectfully request your support of HB 374.

Respectfully,

Judy Jonart, Superintendent
Butte School District
Butte, MT 59701