

Hello Committee Members,

We, as a people, cannot live with 10% cuts to health and human services. We, as a state, cannot manage with a 10% cut to health and human services. A few examples include:

- Elimination of PAS will grow waiting lists for CFC and people will go longer without services.
- Provider rate cuts will lower direct care worker wages and with the elimination of health insurance for health care workers, our workforce will not survive.
- Elimination and reduction in children services stunts the growth and abilities of our youngest, making it more to maintain independence.

Without preventable and sustainable care, people of all ages and different disabilities will be forced to suffer without care or receive care in more expensive institutions, like hospitals and institutions. We cannot settle for this.

We, as Montanans, can work together to find solutions. Understanding this is not a Governor, legislature, Republican, or Democrat problem, but a Montana problem, we can come together to discuss solutions. We in the disability community want to be involved, as long as our involvement is sincere and meaningful. We are willing to discuss reasonable and smart reduction in services to increase program efficiencies and save on cost. Let's also look at increasing revenue by considering tax options and exploring other revenue sources and funding streams.

I do not support the cuts recommended by Governor's office. I support the Governor's office, DPHHS, and the legislature working with the disability community to find reasonable solutions. I support a special legislative session because the work is not done. We owe it to our family members and neighbors to make this right.

Thanks, Darren

1-406-468-5263

[darrenklarson@hotmail.com](mailto:darrenklarson@hotmail.com)

Legislative Finance Committee

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Exhibit 14

