



Montana Nurses' Association

104 Broadway, Suite G2 • Helena, MT 59601 • 406/442-6710 • 406/442-1841 Fax

To: Honorable Chairman Keane and Members of the Interim Economic Affairs Committee
From: Eve Franklin MSN RN
Date: 5/09/06

Dear Honorable Chairman Keane and Committee Members:

Committee members apparently recently received a letter from the attorney for the Board of Medical Examiners (BOME), reporting on the BOME's decision to adopt the rules related to medical assistant practice essentially as written with a few minor changes.

This action came as a great disappointment to the Montana Nurses Association as we hoped that members of the BOME would be interested in making improvements to the current set of rules. We have identified significant compromises to patient safety if the rules went forward as written and these issues remain unresolved. Further, the BOME adoption of the rules proceeded after the Interim Economic Affairs Committee registered concern about current rules in an official committee action.

The BOME letter stated that input came "too late" for BOME to act on. This is somewhat disingenuous as the Montana Nurses Association, individual nurses, physicians, and consumer groups have submitted a volume of substantive documents with very specific recommendations over a period of over 21/2 years.

MNA and other consumer groups are in the process of evaluating the best course of action in relation to public safety concerns. Our commitment is to protect the integrity of our health care system and guard against unwise health policy that is pursued in the name of expedience and short term cost savings.

Thank you for your concern and attention in this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Eve Franklin MSN RN
Executive Director

Note: For purposes of clarification, the BOME letter referred to my presence at the BOME teleconference as "Rep. Franklin". It was made clear for the recording secretary and all members present that I appeared at the teleconference in my role as executive director of the Montana Nurses' Association and spoke in that capacity only.

Economic Affairs Committee Meeting
May 12, 2006
Exhibit #25