



Economic Affairs Interim Committee

59th Montana Legislature

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February 14, 2006

Board of Medical Examiners
c/o Business Standards Division
Department of Labor and Industry
301 S. Park Avenue, Fourth Floor
Helena MT 59620

Dear Board of Medical Examiners:

The Economic Affairs Interim Committee of the Montana Legislature requests that the Board of Medical Examiners refrain from acting on the Medical Assistants New Rule I, MAR 24-156-62, until the proponents and opponents of the proposed rule come to agreement.

New Rule I seeks to implement Chapter 85, Laws of 2003 (House Bill 321). Legislative intent is not obvious from minutes of the legislative hearings on HB 321. Members of the Economic Affairs Committee remember commitments from the various parties on HB 321 to work toward agreement as the rules were drafted. At a February 10, 2006, meeting the Economic Affairs Interim Committee heard concerns about the proposed rule. Comments at the meeting indicated disagreements about the rules regarding training, scope of practice, and definition of office.

It is because of the concern that agreement has not yet occurred among all proponents and opponents that the Economic Affairs Committee voted unanimously, with proxies, to request that the Board of Medical Examiners revise Rule I of MAR 24-156-62 to achieve the agreement of proponents and opponents.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We realize you do not have to comply with this request, but if there is no agreement reached we expect this issue to resurface at the next legislature.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jim Keane by KK
Representative Jim Keane, chair

cc: Board of Nursing
Montana Nurses Association
CI2196 6045pmxa.