

**O'Connell, Sue**

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**From:** Solutions for Montana [solutionsformt@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 9:50 AM  
**To:** Jason Priest; Mary Caferro; Christine Kaufmann; O'Connell, Sue  
**Cc:** Art Wittich; Liz Bangerter; Pat Noonan; Rep. Carolyn Pease-Lopez  
**Subject:** Dateline NBC finds the Mexican Drug Cartel

To the members of the  
Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee:

Last night's airing of Dateline NBC was particularly interesting as reporter Chris Hansen investigated fields of high-quality marijuana in the mountains of Utah as part of a special investigative report.

<http://video.msnbc.msn.com/dateline/46760566>

These are fields of illegal drugs, dozens of them, spread throughout the State of Utah. When asked if Utah was the only state experiencing an increase in cartel presence, the head of operations for the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency stated that illegal marijuana grow fields were also known to be in the States of Georgia, Wisconsin, Idaho and North Dakota.

This is an important piece of information to recognize. None of these states have medical cannabis laws.

I-148, The Montana Medical Marijuana Act, eliminated any presence of a drug cartel in the State of Montana. This is also an important fact to recognize. Testimony was presented before several committee hearings during the 62nd Session that Montana was known as a free market for cannabis. This testimony was not true then, but, as apparent from the Dateline investigation, it may be in the not to distant future.

The implementation of SB423 last July has left the State open to a resurgence of illegal drugs and potentially similar activity to that shown in the Dateline video.

As you review the progress of SB423 today, I respectfully request that you consider the attached video. While the numbers of patients and providers may have gone down since last July, this is not reflective of an effective law, but of the fear of prosecution and persecution. I ask that the Committee once again call for a Special Subcommittee to open discussion into how a balance can be found.

There is a better answer to the issue of medical cannabis in Montana.

Respectfully,

Danna Goldhaber  
Executive Director

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About Solutions for Montana:

CHILDREN & FAMILIES INTERIM COMMITTEE  
March 19-20, 2012  
March 20, Exhibit 15