

Sheryl Frank
1092 Meridian Rd.
Victor, MT 59875

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2010

LEGISLATIVE
FISCAL ANALYST

September 14, 2010

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,

I am writing this letter because of my concerns of the Budget cuts that you are considering that would affect me.

I am a Certified Nursing Assistant that is now working for Progressive Personal Care and my client is a disabled individual. I have been with him for three years now. With this job I am only part time but because of the hours I do work I qualify for Health Benefits. If my hours were to be cut I would lose this benefit.

I have worked at a Long Term Care Facility and I much prefer to work with individuals in their own homes. The reasons for this are: 1. The client is more comfortable in their own home. 2. You do not feel pulled in many different directions. 3. You are able to meet the needs of the client, because you are there 1:1.

My client is a 36 year old male who at the age of 22 was involved in a terrible motorcycle accident. He suffered multiple injuries, but the main injury was to his brain. This has affected his mobility, speech and his cognitive behaviors. Because of these facts he lives with his guardians who are also his Grandparents. They are elderly and cannot physically do all that is required for his care and need the extra help that I and the other Assistant provide.

In these economic hard times I need a job that provides an income as well as the Health Insurance so that I do not become a burden on the already stretched welfare system. My client needs the assistance with all of his activities of daily living, but because of his age and disabilities I do not feel that a Long Term Care Facility is the right choice for him.

Please consider all that I have said in making your decisions. It has an impact on many lives.

Thank You



Sheryl Frank



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

August 16, 2010

Dear Governor:

Last week, President Obama signed into law the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act, which will provide states and territories with an estimated \$16.1 billion to support their Medicaid programs. This new federal funding can stave off the deep cuts to Medicaid that many had feared, and sustain jobs in hospitals, health centers, and communities across the country. They will also support Title IV-E foster care programs. These funds are only available for your state if you request them within 45 days of enactment, or by September 24, 2010. As a former governor and current partner with states in running Medicaid, I urge you to act.

The new law provides states the option of extending additional Medicaid funding through an increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). The FMAP increase was initially authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) and is set to expire this December. Under the new law, states that request these funds will receive a 3.2 percentage point increase in their FMAP from January to March 2011, and a 1.2 percentage point increase from April to June 2011. Additional FMAP increases are available for each calendar quarter during this period for states with high unemployment rates. The Recovery Act policy on FMAP for the U.S. territories is also extended for this time period. The original requirements to receive the Recovery Act increased FMAP continue to apply to receiving the funds during the extension period.

This assistance is essential for states as they support health care services for their residents, and for state budgets more broadly. By reducing the need for budget cuts and layoffs in health, education, public safety, and other vital state services, the additional federal Medicaid assistance will support a variety of public and private economic activities. Analysis by the Council of Economic Advisers of the first few months of the FMAP increase contained in the Recovery Act showed that states that received more dollars had smaller employment losses during the worst of the downturn. In total, the Council of Economic Advisers estimates that the FMAP increase in the Recovery Act will protect or save more than 750,000 jobs.

This FMAP extension also complements the support provided to states and territories through the Affordable Care Act. In the few months since this law was enacted, the Administration has offered nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in grant funding opportunities to states to support activities to make health care more affordable, accessible, and high-quality. This includes grants to enhance current activities for reviewing health insurance premium increases; to educate consumers about their health coverage options; to explore and potentially establish Health Insurance Exchanges – new marketplaces where people can shop for health insurance; and to strengthen state and local public health systems.

August 16, 2010
Page 2

There is no question this is a tough time for states, and governors are being asked to do more with less. I encourage you to take advantage of extended Medicaid support available to you through the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act. Details on the certification to access these funds will be available at <http://www.cms.gov/>. This new law, along with the Affordable Care Act, will help support jobs and build a health care system with lower costs, more choices, and higher-quality health care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kathleen Sebelius



36 S. Last Chance Gulch, Suite A ■ Helena, MT
59601 ■ Telephone 406 443 2876 ■ Fax 406 443 4614 ■ E-mail info@mthealthcare.org

TO: Legislative Finance Subcommittee - DPHHS
FROM: Rose M. Hughes, Executive Director
DATE: September 14, 2010
SUBJECT: General Comments - Use of FMAP and Medicaid Reserve Account

This subcommittee is considering potential cuts to human services programs in the upcoming biennium. Most of the cuts being considered include the loss of several federal dollars for every state dollar "saved." The cuts not only affect access to and quality of care but have a dramatic effect on the economy because they take tens of millions of dollars out of communities all over the state and out of the pockets of workers.

Before doing this kind of damage to vulnerable Montanans and the economy, it is important to consider funds that have been made available by the federal government specifically for the purpose of avoiding Medicaid cuts and sustaining health care jobs. The 2009 legislature specifically created a Medicaid reserve account in which a portion of ARRA enhanced FMAP funds were set aside to be used to support Medicaid programs in the 2013 biennium. These reserve funds amount to about \$17 - 19 million. In addition, just last month the federal government extended the enhanced FMAP, which will send at least an additional \$25 million to Montana for Medicaid.

1. **Montana will receive about \$25M in new funding from the federal government (Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act, August 2010).** This funding is intended to shore up the Medicaid program and avoid the loss of services and jobs. Secretary of HHS Sebelius, in notifying states of the availability of funds stated, "This new federal funding can stave off the deep cuts to Medicaid that many had feared, and sustain jobs in hospitals, health care centers, and communities across the country." (See attached letter to Governors from Secretary Sebelius and federal guidelines related to this funding.)
2. **The new Medicaid dollars should be used for the purpose intended – to restore cuts to human services programs in Montana and sustain jobs.** Early in April, as part of his efforts to maintain a balanced budget, the Governor cut about \$17 million general fund (GF) from the DPHHS budget. Federal matching funds amounting to about \$18 million were also lost because some of the cuts were to programs funded by Medicaid. Many of the cuts were cuts to funding that goes out to communities throughout the state for nursing home, home care, DD

and mental health services and to the workers who provide the care. *The new federal funds are intended to prevent the very cuts that Montana has made.* These cuts which affect services, providers and workers should be restored now that the additional funds are available.

3. ***Restoring the cuts will be good for Montana's economy.*** When times are tough it is important to put money in the pockets of those who need it most. Investing in human services puts money directly in the hands of people who are likely to spend it in their local communities. An example is the 2% provider rate increase that was cut by the Governor. "Providers" are private businesses that contract with the state to provide health care services. These businesses provide important "permanent" jobs in their communities – not "stimulus" jobs that disappear when stimulus funds dry up. These health care businesses buy goods and services in their local communities and employ thousands of workers statewide. Restoration of the 2% rate increase would take about \$7 million GF but would add another \$17 million in federal funds – pumping almost \$25 million into the Montana economy between now and June 30, 2011. Without the increase providers are forced to cut staff and hours, and the workers affected curtail their spending. Without the increase providers also look for other ways to spend less – delaying purchases of supplies and equipment and deferring maintenance and other projects – all to the detriment of the Montana economy.
4. ***Restoring the cuts will be good for Montanans who need help by assuring access and quality of care.*** People served by DPHHS programs are among the most vulnerable Montanans. Failure to adequately fund hospital, nursing home, home care, DD, mental health, prescription drug assistance and other services for adults and children puts the quality of those services in jeopardy and ultimately threatens access to needed services. Restoring these cuts is good for providers, good for health care workers and good for the Montanans who need our help.
5. ***The Governor should not "save" the money to pay for new Medicaid expansion in 2014.*** It has been reported that the Governor has proposed saving the increased \$25 million until 2014 to help pay for Medicaid expansion under health reform, despite the fact that the health reform legislation fully pays for the Medicaid expansion coming in 2014. Regardless, this \$25 million is designed to save Medicaid services and jobs now. The legislation specifically excludes putting the money in a rainy day fund or other reserve fund. Providers and workers are struggling now and need the help offered by Congress – and the economy needs the boost this money will provide. It is uncertain whether the plan to save this money is contrary to the letter of the law, but there can be no doubt that it is contrary to the spirit of the law which is intended to put money into the economy now.

6. **Major cuts proposed for the 2013 biennium should also be averted.** It is our understanding that the Governor intends to remove OTO (one time only) funding from DPHHS in proposing a budget for the 2013 biennium. Such an action would roll back provider rates to the 2009 level (\$26 million over the biennium), cut in-home service slots to the 2009 level (\$9 million over the biennium), and cut direct care workers' salary and benefits (\$16 million over the biennium). These cuts alone amount to \$51 million being pulled from health care services over the next biennium – and being pulled out of the Montana economy. About 70% of these funds are federal funds we will be giving up. There are additional unspecified cuts of \$22 million also related to OTO funding. Again, cuts that affect services, providers and workers should be averted by use of a portion of the new \$25 million coming from the federal government and by use of funds previously received for enhanced Medicaid payments that were specifically set aside by the 2009 legislature to support Medicaid in the 2013 biennium. Somewhere between \$17- and \$19 million will be available in the reserve fund set up by the 2009 legislature.

Failure to restore current biennium funding (\$35 million total funds) and removal of OTO funding for the 2013 biennium (\$73+ million total funds) means that health care programs will be cut over \$100 million from 2009 levels. If a major corporation announced that it was cutting \$100 million from its operating budget in Montana over the next biennium, there would be a hue and cry about the damage to the Montana economy. Often the state is powerless to address such a situation. In this case, though, the state has an opportunity to use the \$25 million windfall coming from the federal government – specifically for the purpose of sustaining Medicaid and health care jobs – to stave off these cuts. The state should act responsibly to get as much of this funding out to local communities as soon as possible to save health care services and jobs.

Lindsay, Susie

From: Steinbeck, Lois
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2010 1:45 PM
To: Dave Wanzenried
Cc: Wilkinson, Kris; Lindsay, Susie
Subject: RE: Survey Link from Montana Budget & Policy Center

Thanks – I forwarded the comment so that it can be recorded for subcommittee review.

Lois Steinbeck

Senior Fiscal Analyst
Montana Legislative Fiscal Division
Phone - (406) 444-5391
Fax - (406) 444- 3063

From: Dave Wanzenried [mailto:daveew@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2010 12:32 PM
To: Steinbeck, Lois; Wilkinson, Kris
Subject: Fwd: Survey Link from Montana Budget & Policy Center

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Karen Heisler <karenh@cccsmt.org>
Date: Mon, Sep 13, 2010 at 11:20 AM
Subject: Survey Link from Montana Budget & Policy Center
To: "daveew@gmail.com" <daveew@gmail.com>

I just wanted to let you know that I tried to take the survey, but I think it was very difficult for most people to be able to take in and answer without doing a considerable amount of research, which I didn't have time to do.

I do want to let you know that we at Rural Dynamics think it is very important to make sure that the legislature is looking at both budget cuts and revenue builders in order to deal with the budget this year. We would like to see a balanced approach, and not just a slash and burn mentality.

Thanks so much!

Karen Heisler

Director of Asset Development

CCCS/Rural Dynamics Inc.

Daumiller, Marilyn (LEG)

From: Montana Youth Leadership [mylfjune@bresnan.net]
Sent: Monday, August 02, 2010 7:37 AM
Cc: Daumiller, Marilyn (LEG)
Subject: Finance Committee

Legislative Finance Committee Members;

As you deliberate today on the proposed cuts for the upcoming session, I would like to ask that you remove the Transition Coordinator from that list of proposed cuts.

We believe that this one of the most cost effective items that you can fund.

Youth with disabilities is the largest minority in Montana schools currently at approximately 17% of our schools population, there are 15,668 youth with disabilities between the ages of 6-19 in our schools.

Montana has not addressed the issue of transition for these young people in any sustainable way. We have developed a web site that is being paid for by the partners that sponsor the site and have been able to secure enough funds to sustain the site for another eight years. The site does need to have someone administer the site, which this position has done. We have a number of stories of individuals who have found the site extremely helpful in a number of areas. The site can be seen at www.montanayouthtransitions.org

Additionally we have developed regional meetings to allow those invested in the topic of transition to meet on a regional level and develop strategies for the goals that are set. In the first round of meetings we had sixty-one people in attendance including teachers, human service professionals, youth with disabilities, and parents. This networking would not take place without a coordinator. The costs for participants to attend is absorbed by the participants but the facilitation, record keeping and administrative tasks are done by the Transition Coordinator.

2010 will also be the first year of the Disability Mentoring Day that will be held on October 20. We have sixty applications of youth with disabilities from across the state that will participate in job shadowing activities on October 20th. This is a national event and this will be the first year that we have implemented it in Montana. Sixty youth having the opportunity to job shadow is a significant step toward a successful transition to adulthood.

There is not a cost to the student to participate and businesses are asked to donate their time on that day to show the youth what is expected in the work setting. The Transition Coordinator recruits businesses to voluntarily participate and matches the students with the business.

The final activity that is conducted by the Transition Coordinator is an annual conference. On October 3-5, youth with disabilities will participate in a Real Life Fair whereby they will be exposed to resources depicting real life situations that they will need to deal with once leaving high school.

The Transition Coordinator secures sponsors for the conference in an effort to make the conference self-supporting.

We believe that for the funds that the legislature has provided has allowed us to impact a significant number of people from across Montana. There are four projects coordinated with these funds: 1)MYTransitions Web site, 2)Regional Transition Meetings, 3)Disability Mentoring Day, 4)Annual Transition Conference.

Additionally, we are working on a number of fundraising efforts including an on-line auction, joining Montana Shares, and direct solicitation. We do hope however that the state will continue to be a partner in the transition needs of our youth with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration of eliminating the Transition Coordinator from this list of cuts.

June Hermanson
MYLF Program Director
1617 Euclid Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601
(406)442-2576 Phone/TDD
(406)443-3796 Fax
E-Mail - mylfjune@bresnan.net
www.montanaylf.org

07/30/2010 14:20 14065439645

ERIN HEITZMAN

PAGE 02/02



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AUG 02 2010

LEGISLATIVE
FISCAL ANALYST

July 30, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am employed with Bee Hive Homes Assisted Living Facility of Missoula, and we provide housing for both the elderly, as well as those with traumatic brain injuries. The rate of reimbursement for those residents who utilize the Montana Medicaid Waiver are significantly less than the rates a private pay resident is required to pay. Nevertheless, we accept those on the waiver program as there is a necessity for quality housing options for all people in this community. These residents receive the same level of care, are provided the same amenities, and are able to utilize the same services (transportation, outings, activities) as everyone who resides at this facility. Reducing the funding for this program would significantly affect the number of Medicaid eligible residents that we would be able to accept, primarily due to the already large discrepancy in the reimbursement rate. Our private pay residents see no less than a \$50.00 increase in rent from year to year simply due to the cost of living increases. Please reconsider eliminating these increases in living allowances to those served by our tax dollars through the Medicaid program.

Respectfully,

Erin Heitzmann, Bee Hive Homes, Missoula

Jul 30 10 03:58p

Bonnie Kolden

406-728-8675

p.1

PLEASANT VIEW PERSONAL CARE, INC,

4322 West Central Ave.

Missoula, M T 59804

406-728-8675

RECEIVED

AUG 02 2010

**LEGISLATIVE
FISCAL ANALYST**

Dear Representative,

RE: Legislative Finance Committee Meeting on Monday August 2.

I am writing in regards to the rate reduction for Medicaid Providers. This reduction will make it harder to provide the services and care for the residence. The cost of food, electricity, and other living expenses are continually going up.

The other concern I have is to implement a provider fee. I feel that it will make it harder for Medicaid residents to be accepted into assisted living homes. The company is already paying taxes on the income from Medicaid residents.

I hope you will consider these when you are voting.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Kolden, Owner/Manager

JUL-21-2010 23:20 FROM:WSM INC

3072370870

TO:Community Medical P.2/2

Dear Members of the Legislative Finance Committee,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my nephew, Dustin Overgaard, his family and all others that your proposed budget options will affect.

Dustin was injured in a ski accident in February of 1998 and his lifestyle completely changed. The accident occurred at Bridger Bowl in Bozeman where Dustin was skiing for the day with a friend. It was just one of those freak accidents. It left Dustin with a closed head injury, the loss of use of his left side and in a wheelchair. Prior to this accident Dustin was attending college in Bozeman. He was paying for his own college and working to be able to do this. When registered at MSU he paid for the insurance coverage, but in 1998 Dustin was taking a semester off because he needed to work full-time to save up money for tuition. By doing this, when he had his accident he no longer had insurance and thus put Dustin in the situation that he needed state assistance. Dustin was 27 at the time and on his own. His parents are not financially or physically able to care for Dustin.

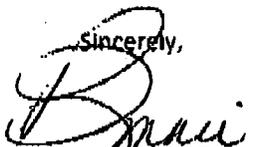
Rather than give you a ton of statistics or go through the whole boo-hoo routine I would encourage you all to visit your constituents whom the cuts will directly affect and see for yourself. The monies people with disabilities who are at home, in a group home or in a special facility receive are not remotely close to sipping champagne; it is more like rot gut beer.

I noticed there are two state senators on the committee from Missoula; Senator Carol Williams and Senator Dave Wanzenried. I would ask you to go visit Dustin at his apartment and the facility where he goes during the day. Dustin is at the Bridges/Opportunities complex in Missoula. Dustin's apartment, which he shares with another disabled person, is 2075 Cooper Street Apt 413 in Missoula. Take a look around and see if these individuals can afford the reductions that are on your agenda for the August 2nd meeting.

I know Missoula is not the only place with facilities for people with various degrees of disability. With that being said I would encourage all of you on this committee to visit facilities in your area or around the state before making any decision on these proposed reductions. I know times are tough, but sometimes we need to bite the bullet and look at other areas to cut that won't affect those that can't help themselves.

Thank you for your time. Thank you for your service to the State of Montana.

Sincerely,


Bonnie M. Foster

RECEIVED

August 2, 2010

AUG 02 2010

Dear Members of the Legislative Finance Committee,

I am writing this letter as a case manager for people with physical disabilities, a former caregiver, and a daughter who lost her 48-year-old dad in a nursing home.

LEGISLATIVE
FINANCE ANALYST

It is difficult to pick out one or even a few of the proposed cuts as each will have such a significant impact on vulnerable populations.

Eliminating Assisted Living and Group Home rates-we, as case managers, already struggle with finding housing for some of the individuals we work with. We are already pushing these providers to their maximum. If housing is unavailable then they are forced into nursing home placement or warm springs which is higher cost for the state than if they were to live in a lower care facility.

Reducing the Medicaid Personal Needs Allowance-I cannot believe this is even of discussion. Living on \$50/month is already challenging. It is our job as case managers to help these folks be active in the community and have a fulfilling life. Aside from personal needs they would like to go to a baseball game, swim, go to the movies, attend a concert, etc. \$50/month does not cover what their true needs are.

Freeze Medically Needy Income Level-It is these folks that most have worked hard a good portion of their lives and paid into the system that suffer. They would have been financially better off had they not worked and now receiving SSDI or pensions after suffering from a tragedy or illness. They need the insurance, Medicaid, but in doing so and having such a large spenddown it leaves them with hardly the ability to pay for rent in their own apartment, they are having to find roommates. In this economy how is somebody supposed to live off of \$645? Spenddown is confusing terminology, I encourage you to reach out to some of those who have a spenddown to see how it effects them.

Eliminate Optional Medicaid Services-If this is to take place then what is the plan to help people pay for dental, eyeglasses, PT, Speech, etc?? Many of the folks we serve would chose to go without because they do not have the funds to pay and that would put them at higher risk of nursing home placement which again would cost the state more money.

Eliminate Additional Support of the Community Waiver Services-Again, I encourage you to look at how many individuals are on waiting lists and to visit with some of them. Most people, especially my deceased father, did not want to be housed in a nursing home. When he was able to receive Home and Community Based Services and live in his own home he looked beyond his suffering from ALD and he had hope and did what he could to have a fulfilling life. Remember, there may come a time you are fighting tooth and nail to stay in your own home and that is what this service is all about.

Thank you for your efforts and dedicated work.

Sincerely,



Cris Fleming Bloxom, BSW
cbloxom@communitymed.org
406-360-4809

July 30, 2010

The Honorable Amy Carlson
Montana Legislative Branch
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Director Carlson:

I am employed with Bee Hive Homes Assisted Facility of Missoula, and we provide housing for both the elderly, as well as those with traumatic brain injuries. The rate of reimbursement for those residents who utilize the Montana Medicaid Waiver are significantly less than the rates a private pay resident is required to pay.

Nevertheless, we accept those on the waiver program as there is a great need for quality housing options for all peoples of this community, including the financially needy. Those residents receive the same level of care, are provided the same amenities, and are able to utilize the same level of service (transportation, outings, activities) as those who have no need of the waiver. Reducing the funding for this program would significantly affect the number of Medicaid eligible residents who would we would be able to accommodate, primarily due to the already large discrepancies in the reimbursement rate.

Please reconsider eliminating these increases in living allowances to those served by our tax dollars through the Medicaid program. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Casey Massena
TBI Director
Bee Hive Homes Missoula
2406 River Rd.
Missoula, MT 59804

Daumiller, Marilyn (LEG)

From: Montana Youth Leadership [mylfjune@bresnan.net]
Sent: Monday, August 02, 2010 7:37 AM
Cc: Daumiller, Marilyn (LEG)
Subject: Finance Committee

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June Hermanson
MYLF Program Director
1617 Euclid Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601
(406)442-2576 Phone/TDD
(406)443-3796 Fax
E-Mail - mylfjune@bresnan.net
www.montanaylf.org

Dear L.F.C.

Please consider the note on this page. I am a consumer and I have very little income. I do not want to have one choice just be discarded on the wayside. I am of Value. So please make your decisions that will consider the little guy. Those of us who have made this country the best in the world.

Thank you
Kathie Olsen

RECEIVED

SEP 28 2010

LEGISLATIVE
FISCAL ANALYST

Dear Legislative Finance Committee

As a person with a disability, I am deeply distressed by the service programs that you are currently looking at as potential cuts in Montana's budget. I am also fearful that if these cuts are implemented that I will lose many of the services that I rely on to live my life with my ability to live as independently as I can and even possibly survive. Many of the cuts could also force me to live in a nursing home or another institutional setting. I do not want to live in a nursing home and we all know that making me or anyone else live in a nursing home is more expensive than providing community-based services.

I understand Montana must balance its budget but I urge you to consider that services reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been reversed and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

Sincerely,

mail ASAP w/ your comments
& concerns to

Legislative Finance Committee
PO Box 201711
Helena, MT

59620 -1711

Dear L.F.C.

Please consider the note on this page. I am a consumer and I ~~have~~ ^{have} very little income. I do not want to have one choice and just be discarded on the wayside. I am of value. So make your decisions that will consider the little guy. Those of us who have made this country the best in the world.

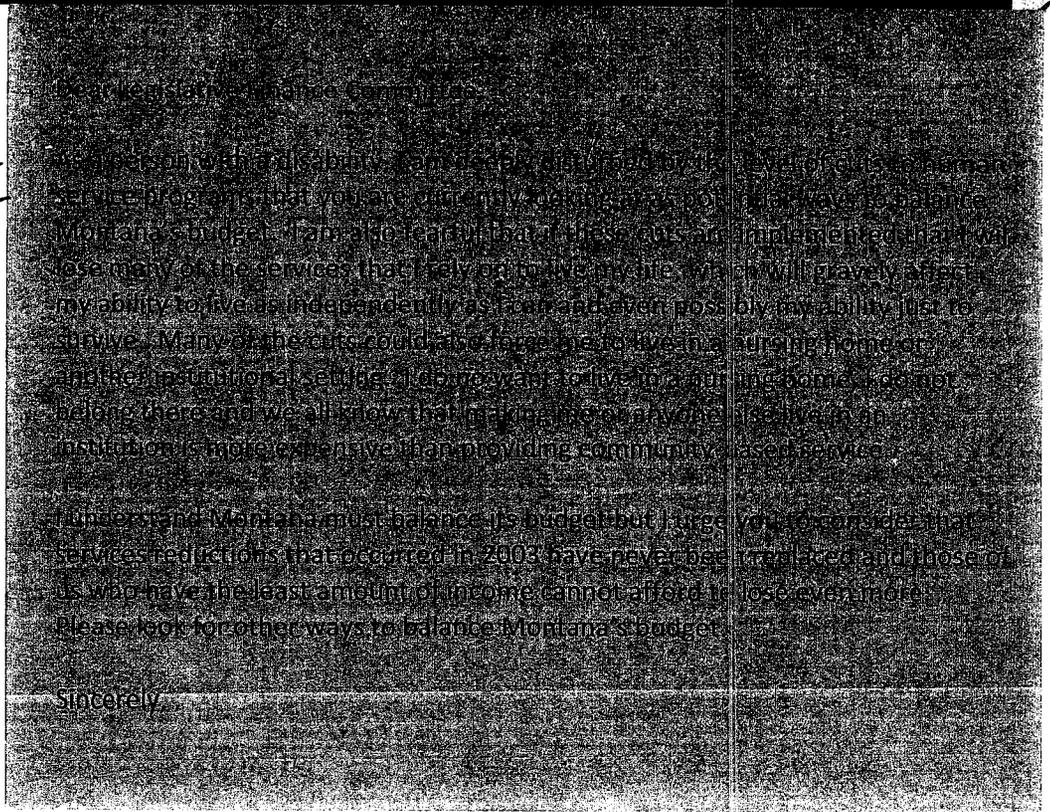
Thank you

Charlotte Brunckhorst

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SEP 27 2010

LEGISLATIVE
FISCAL ANALYST



mail ASAP w/ your comments
& concerns to

Legislative Finance Committee
PO Box 201711
Helena, MT

59620 -1711

Dear L.F.C,

Please consider the note on

This page.

I am a consumer and I have very limited income.

I do not want to have one choice and just be discarded on the wayside.

I am of value, so please make your decisions that will consider the little guy.

Those of us who have made this country the best in the world.

Thank you

Ms Jerry Blotzke

RECEIVED

SEP 27 2010

LEGISLATIVE
FISCAL ANALYST

Legislative Finance Committee

As a person with a disability, I am deeply distressed by the level of cuts in our service programs that you are considering. As a potential voter, I am also concerned about Montana's budget. I am also concerned that if these cuts are implemented that we will lose many of the services that I rely on to live my life, which will greatly affect my ability to live as independently as I can and even possibly my ability just to survive. Many of the cuts could also force me to live in a nursing home or another institutional setting, which I do not want to live in. Nursing homes do not belong there and we all know that making me or anyone else live in an institution is more expensive than providing community based services.

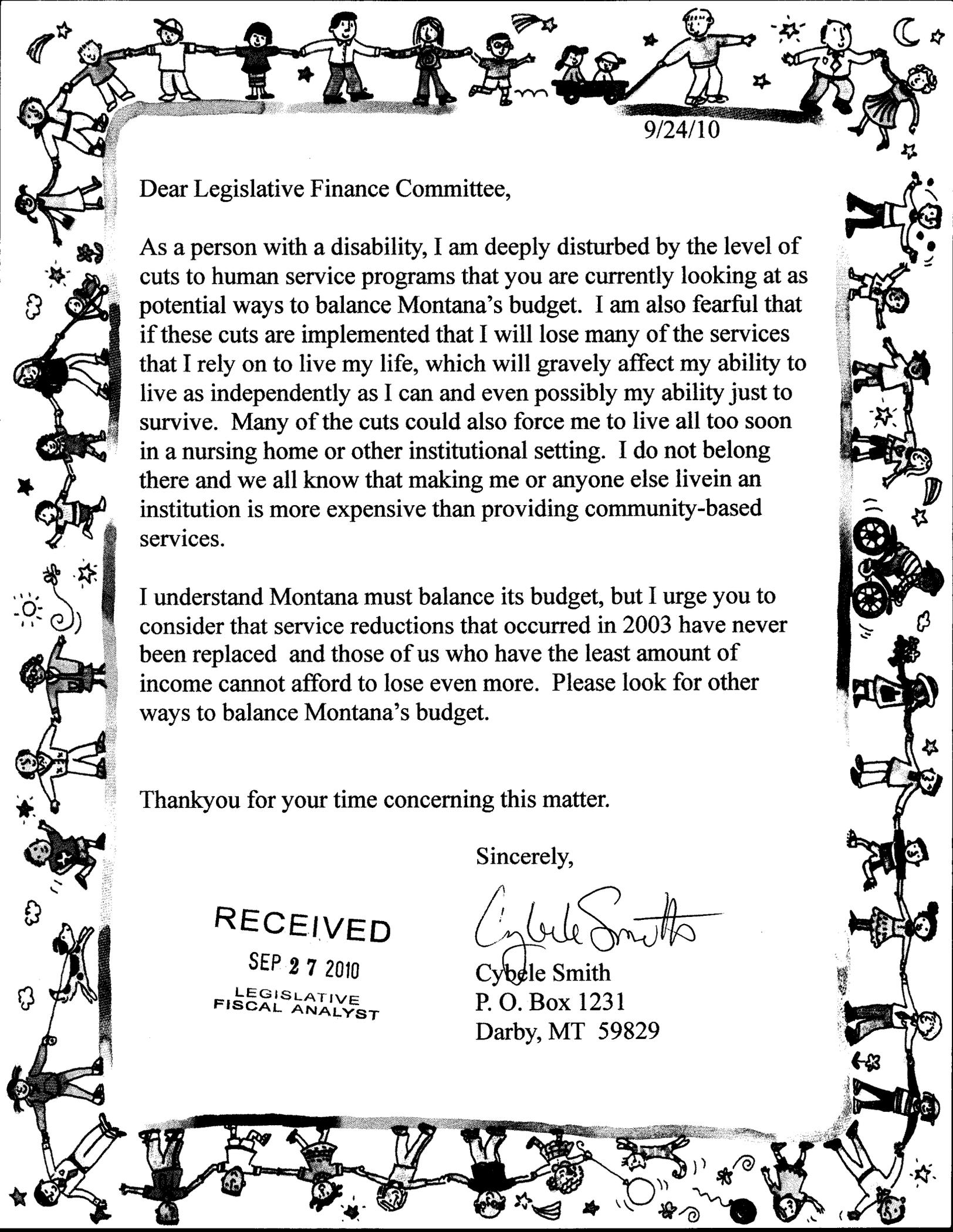
I understand Montana must balance its budget but I urge you to consider that services reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been replaced and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

Sincerely,

mail ASAP w/ your comments
& concerns to

Legislative Finance Committee
PO Box 201711
Helena, MT

59620 - 1711



9/24/10

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,

As a person with a disability, I am deeply disturbed by the level of cuts to human service programs that you are currently looking at as potential ways to balance Montana's budget. I am also fearful that if these cuts are implemented that I will lose many of the services that I rely on to live my life, which will gravely affect my ability to live as independently as I can and even possibly my ability just to survive. Many of the cuts could also force me to live all too soon in a nursing home or other institutional setting. I do not belong there and we all know that making me or anyone else live in an institution is more expensive than providing community-based services.

I understand Montana must balance its budget, but I urge you to consider that service reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been replaced and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

Thankyou for your time concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



Cybele Smith
P. O. Box 1231
Darby, MT 59829

RECEIVED

SEP 27 2010

LEGISLATIVE
FISCAL ANALYST

On behalf of the several Clients I work with at Adult Day Treatment who cannot focus, I want to reiterate this letter. Folks are at a minimum of case management time; Can you imagine helping a schizophrenic on heavy medications with only 1 1/2 hours allotted per month? That is our situation. Please hold the line on cutbacks! Thank you.

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,

As a person with disability I am deeply distressed by the service programs that you are currently looking at for Montana's budget. I am also fearful that if these cuts are made many of the services that I rely on to live my life will be cut. Many of the cuts could also force me to live in an institutional setting. I do not want to live in a facility and we all know that making the cost of an institution is more expensive than providing community-based services.

I understand Montana must balance its budget but I urge you to consider that service reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been reversed and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

Sincerely,

level of quality human services that will be implemented that I will be gravely affected. My ability just to stay in my home or to live in a community-based service is at risk.

you consider that service reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been reversed and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

mail ASAP w/ your comments & concerns to

RECEIVED

SEP 28 2010

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST

Legislative Finance Committee

PO Box 201711

Helena, MT

59620 -1711

Star Jameson Intensive Crisis Worker, WMMHC.

Please do **NOT** reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is CASSANDRA NASH and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 4 Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: If you take this away I won't have anyone to care for me!!

Contact Information: (406) 231-4621

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

Please do NOT reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is Amanda Johnson and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for at least 2 Years/Months

Personal Experience/Comments: I am waiting on the list for assistance in remodeling my new house so that I can be more ~~assist~~ independent. I am also waiting for assistance in purchasing a van so that I can be more independent.

Contact Information: 727-7954

~~Yes~~ I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.



Please do **NOT** reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is **BONNIE SANDERS** and I have been on the wait list to

receive Home & Community Based Services for 5 Years Months

Personal Experience/Comments: No increase in S.S.I Disability
since 2009 while

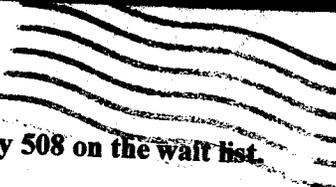
prices continue to increase MO by
MO. all year long can barely afford
pres. meds. Have to borrow for
over the counter med SD

Contact Information:

Bonnie Sanders
116 1st Ave So Mt. Falls, Mt.
706-727-2545 59401

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

SEP 23 2010 104



Please do **NOT** reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is Nancy Hunt and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 6 Years/Months

Personal Experience/Comments: This service is wonderful for people needing assistance with very limited funds. With 508 people on the list, it is clearly needed.

Contact Information: Laura and Jim Milos
(406) 788-9415 4122 4th A. So.
(406) 788-0139 Great Falls, MT

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me. 59405

Please do NOT reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is DONNA FOUCHER and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 7 Years/~~Months~~.

Personal Experience/Comments: _____

NEED HELP WITH EVERY DAY LIVING
AND HOME MODIFICATION.

Contact Information: _____

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

Please do NOT reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is Nathan Williams and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 3 Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: I was hit by drunk driver
early one morning going home from working in surgery
all night on call. Through no fault of my own I
am totally disabled. I need these services and
have now where else to turn.

Contact Information: 406-550-0828
I have brain damage/seizures, broken bones/back problems
and intractable severe pain.

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

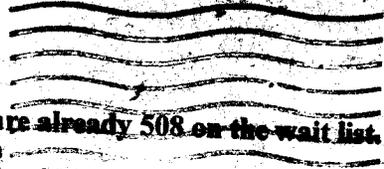
Please do **NOT** reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is BUSS ZELMER and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 7 Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: TOMMY WALKER
HAS BEEN FORGING CHECKS & NO-BODY
DOES ANYTHING WHY

Contact Information: BUSS ZELMER Box 943
BUTTE, MT. 59203

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.



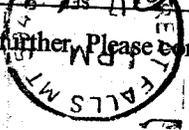
Please do NOT reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is BRENDA WAGNER and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for _____ Year(s) _____ Month(s).

Personal Experience/Comments: I HAVE ONLY RECENTLY
COME ON THE LIST, BUT I AM
IN DESPERATE NEED OF THESE
SERVICES.

Contact Information: HOME (406) 278-0285
AFTERNOON & EVENING
(406) 271-2407

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.



Please do **NOT** reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is Angie Barron and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 6 Years Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: my son Skyler is 11. He has neuro blastoma cancer. I am a single parent needing help from this service. We are homebound because of his illness.

Contact Information: (406) 240 1962

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

Please do **NOT** reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is Melina Peck and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 2 0 Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: Awesome program that helps so many who can't afford the ever raising health expenses.

Contact Information: _____

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

AJI

Please do NOT reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is Polly Becker and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 5 Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: I have a child with a very severe heart defect. He meets nursing home criteria, and is on the wait list for in-home services. Our family really needs the benefits for which he is eligible, but cannot get due to funding.

Contact Information: 636 W. Artemos Drive, Missoula MT 59803. 406 360 3677
gardnerpolly@yahoo.com

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

Please do NOT reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is Neislena Otto and I have been on the wait list to

receive Home & Community Based Services for 2 Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: I have been dependent on Homecare

I am in a wheelchair in a lot of pain from R.R. joint

warrant for Blood clots probably, he is missing home. I

turned 65 in Sept. 2010. I have been on Medicaid for

7 years. I have (not) 5 years services, just been on

1 year. I have been with medical problems

Medical does not cover my home care. Does not cover

contact of care. My husband has congestive
heart failure and is difficult for me to care for. I have
been on Medicaid since the program
started. I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.
7320 155th W
Home, Mt. 59501
406-265-2918

Please do **NOT** reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is Harold Anderson and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for _____ Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: I really need your
Services Please. Call me.

Contact Information: 406-231-7101 (cell)
406-866-0199 (Home)

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

Please do **NOT** reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is Bonnie Takeston and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 1x3m Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: Need my client to have more hrs. because my eye sight is getting worse making harder for me to see + do chores. My body is also getting weaker for me to need the help that assures I am taken care of.

Contact Information:

Bonnie Takeston, Box 1153, Browning, Md. 59417. #1-406-338-5010/mess. 338-3684.

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

Please do **NOT** reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is JAMES DENEND and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 1 Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: I have alot of medical
problems + my S/O has been
getting worn out trying to take care of
me. I just got on the wait list so recom-
mended by my case manager.

Contact Information: JAMES DENEND + RENEE WOOD
825 RIVER ST
HAMILTON, MT 59840 PH# 406-375-5227

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

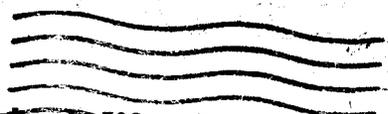
Please do **NOT** reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is John Gubney and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 6 Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: I have MS. my health is declining and my only income is my disability. With the high cost of Assisted Living facilities. I will not be able to afford the care without the medicaid waiver program.

Contact Information: 406-866-8605

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.



Please do **NOT** reduce **HCBS** slots, there are already **508** on the wait list.

My name is Lisa J. Johnson and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 6 Years Months.

Personal Experience Comments I have waiting for 10 years!!! I need this program, I am on SSI disability \$825.00 a month \$125.00 spend down and my rent is \$200.00, I no more for anything!

Contact Information (406) 231-5676

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

Please do **NOT** reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is Danada and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 1 Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: OK

Contact Information:

001039

Mr. Dennis Croxton
111 North Ct
Hamilton, MT 59840-3052



Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

Please do **NOT** reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is Mary Wickman and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 5 Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: _____

Contact Information: 125034th St E101 Missoula, MT
(406) 721-3129 59801

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.



Please do NOT reduce HOA's slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is Diana DeRamon and I have been on the wait list to

receive Home & Community-Based Services for _____ Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: I am a case

manager & there are so many

people in need of this program. Plus

if saves the state money by keeping them

out of the nursing home.

Contact Information: 406-535-6297

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.