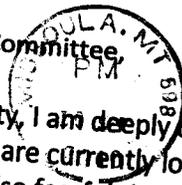


Dear Legislative Finance Committee,



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 in a nursing home or another institutional setting. I do not want to live in a nursing home, 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 service.

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,

Michael T Aubright PM
PO Box 23
St. Ignace, MT 59715
2010



Legislative Finance Committee

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