

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

February 8, 1983

The meeting of the Local Government Committee was called to order by Chairman George McCallum on February 8, 1983 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 405, State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All Senators were present.

RECONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 124: Sen. Van Valkenburg asked that the committee reconsider its actions on SB 124 which received a Do Not Pass but has not been reported out of committee. It was his understanding that the League of Cities and Towns has an amendment they would like to present which they think would make it palatable to cities and towns and provide some relief to the problem that Rosebud County has had. Senator Van Valkenburg moved to lay the bill on the table to look at it further in committee and as a further consideration to the sponsor. Sen. Crippen felt that they should see the amendments before they go any farther. Chairman McCallum suggested that the bill simply be held in committee until Alec Hansen submits his proposed amendments. Mr. Hansen was out of town at the time and will be contacted as soon as he returns, therefore, the bill will held in committee until that time.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 21: The sponsor of SB 21, Sen. Halligan of District #48, explained the amendments which were adopted by the Committee on Taxation when they heard this bill. It was then rereferred to this committee. A copy of the amendments are attached to these minutes. It would change the "local government" to "general purpose government" and would also include senior citizens. This will, hopefully, help alleviate some of the problems of these handicapped people.

PROPOSERS: Tom Ryan, Montana Senior Citizens' Association, an advocacy agency, felt there is a definite need to be answered here. The senior citizens advocated this at the annual convention in Great Falls. It could be possible that 1 mill would not really be needed to do what Sen. Halligan wants the bill to do.

Rita Flanagan, Handicapped Advisor, University of Montana, Missoula, representing the disabled students at the University, said they do get back and forth from the University, however, it is difficult to get transportation because there is no funding base. The people that she represents are wholeheartedly in support of this bill.

Laura Cork, Big Bear Resources of Missoula, which is services for the disabled, said they are finding their agency is unable to meet these needs. They are having trouble making sure that this transportation is provided. The disabled persons all need this service to get them from where they reside to the doctor, grocery store, post office, etc., and they were in support of this bill.

Wendy Holmes, Summit, Missoula, said they train people to become independent in the community. Specialized transportation is very critical to them. They would like to see a system established and supported this bill. They would like to see, hopefully, a service that is not just 8 to 5 daily, and feel that this bill might provide that

kind of service.

Charles Briggs, Governor's Office, State Aging Coordinator, said that one of the critical elements that came out of the White House Conference on Aging in services for senior citizens is the transportation issue. This bill is to provide a mechanism for specialized transportation services without duplication. Under the amendment, this would provide for multi-county agreements. In Polson, for instance, despite the bus, they are severely limited on funds. There is a letter of support being sent from the Polson Senior Citizens' Center. This bill might be complimentary with existing funding so it might not be necessary to levy the full mill.

Judy Carlson, Deputy Director of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, favored the permissive mill levy.

There were no further proponents.

OPPONENTS: Howard Schwartz, Missoula County Commissioners, felt he was neither an opponent or proponent but was in the middle of this. This bill deals with how to get a secure funding base for specialized transportation. Mr. Schwartz said there are already urban transportation districts who provide for handicapped persons within those districts. They do not want additional funding. If there is an urban transportation district that has been established, this bill should apply to only those areas outside that district.

There being no further opponents, the hearing was opened to questions from the committee.

DISCUSSION OF SENATE BILL NO. 21: Sen. Conover asked if this bill was amended to be "general purpose governments" and also to include senior citizens and handicapped persons, to which Sen. Halligan replied it was. He felt where the need is they have to have the ability to fund it. He wants the cities or counties to have the authority to meet those needs.

Sen. Hammond asked how this bill was amended in Taxation and then sent to this committee? Chairman McCallum said that it is a permissive levy and since this committee has several permissive levy bills they felt it belonged in this committee.

Chairman McCallum asked Ms. Cork if it wasn't true that the handicapped people had a contract with the bus company in Missoula, they didn't feel it was being operated right and broke the contract. He wanted to know what assurance there would be that it would be operated in a prudent manner.

Sen. Halligan answered the above question saying that 1 mill in Missoula County is approximately \$110,000 and felt, with that amount of money, they would see that it was operated in a prudent manner. Mr. Schwartz said the commissioners are not going to propose any more taxes, and if they did, they would see that it is operated responsibly.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 332: Sen. Marbut, District #49, stated that this is a simple bill but may have profound effects. It extends the right to annex wholly surrounded areas to all cities as well as first class. Cities of 5-10,000 population are the only ones concerned with in this bill. There is no right of protest in that annexation. Sen. Marbut felt that orderly municipal growth is a problem in Montana and this might allow some of those smaller cities to grow more orderly.

PROPOSERS: Mike Micone, Montana League of Cities and Towns said it is a simple bill that the Montana League of Cities and Towns has asked to be introduced. The members have voted on this and it is a part of the League's legislative packet that has been presented to the legislature. He felt this should also be accorded to second class cities as it allows the city to provide orderly development.

James Whitloch, Hamilton Mayor, stated it was difficult for a city of their size. They have a population of around 2500 but serve in the area of 5-10,000. It is a strain to provide the facilities for these people and felt this bill is a move in the right direction.

Bud Schatz, Assistant Administrator for Hamilton, who has been involved with city government for several years, said this would allow them to provide water and sewage systems to these areas outside the incorporated city where wells have become polluted, septic systems are totally inadequate, etc. They have to provide the services if they are annexed. They are trying to clean up these problems by expanding and improving their systems.

Don Morrison, City of Whitefish, said this bill is not addressing the fact of annexing adjoining property, just property that is wholly surrounded. Industrial property, manufacturing, agricultural, etc. are excluded. They have little pockets in Whitefish that have resisted annexation for years. They do, however, use the police, ambulance, parks, etc. The cost for those people who use these services amounts to well over \$100,000. Some of these areas have been encircled for 10 to 30 years and have enjoyed a very favorable position for those years. The people that do not pay city taxes are the ones that are at the council meetings asking for these things to be provided. Mr. Morrison showed a map to the committee showing areas, or pockets, that have not been incorporated.

There were no further proponents and no opponents.

DISCUSSION OF SENATE BILL NO. 332: Sen. Boylan asked if there is still a waiver provision in effect if these people ever accepted any services? Sen. Crippen said it is still on the books and it is used.

Mr. Whitloch said that Hamilton is going through a change over. It is mandatory that they build a new sewer plant and only 2500 people to pay for it, consequently these people will bear the brunt of the cost. The current rate for sewer service is \$2.25 per month; this will be increased to \$11.40 per month. The same is true for the water system. This is antiquated and has not been updated for 30 years. The rates have been \$2.25 and they are going to \$11.10 per month. The water system is being built for expansion, eventually 5,000 people. \$5.40 per month of the \$11.40 is going to pay for the cost of the sewer system.

These two systems had to be improved. They felt that the cities should have the right to make the determination to annex these people if they are encircled.

Sen. Thomas questioned Mr. Whitloch about the cities' rights - what about the rights of the individual? In answer to this question, Mr. Whitloch said that these people live close to the city but just outside and use the city facilities. These people should be willing to come in and if not, there should be a way to get these people into the city. People that are wholly surrounded would not have the right to protest.

Mr. Morrison said they are aware of the waiver but the water and sewer service is the only ones that have been used. Some of the people were using these services before the law was in effect.

Mr. Whitloch said that Hamilton has not used the waiver yet. The county population has gone to 22,000 from around 12,000. There is 24-hour law service, the city provides all the rural fire protection with 28 trained firemen, etc. If Hamilton does not expand, the city cannot survive.

The hearing on SB 332 was closed.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 367: Sen. Marbut, sponsor of this bill, brought out the fact that this will be the fourth bill before this committee concerning the mill levy for libraries. He stated that the committee will probably vote to table this bill but wanted to get some testimony on the record as several people would like to use this as groundwork for studying the library setup.

There were no proponents.

OPPONENTS: Sara Parker, representing the Montana State Library Commission, said they do need help now in some areas but there is also a need to work in the library community. Again, they would like to study the relationship between the libraries and the cities and counties. There are some good ideas in this bill that the library community would like to discuss and study but it also has some problems. There may be some questions about people who are not responsible to the electorate setting mill levies.

Sen. Marbut MOVED TO TABLE SB 367. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 374: The sponsor of this bill, Sen Boylan of District #38, said this bill was put in by request. It is an inflationary bill to move the \$10,000 limit up to \$25,000.

PROPONENTS: Bill Verwolf, City of Helena, stated that they proposed this bill especially for building repair and street repair. The limit was raised last session for the counties and they felt that if it is reasonable for the counties it should be reasonable for the cities. The bill just asks that it be raised from \$10,000 to \$25,000 and that it be maintained the same as for counties.

Don Morrison of the City of Whitefish also was in support of the bill.

OPPONENTS: Chad Smith, representing the Land Improvement Contractors, said he was opposed to this bill for the same reasons that he opposed SB 18, in that it lets government get into competition with the private contractors. The \$25,000 sounds like a lot of money to these people when there is no business. These people are in very tough shape and they don't feel that government should be in the business to compete with them. They ask that this bill be given a do not pass in the committee.

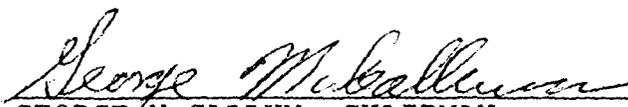
Bill Olson of the Montana Contractor's Association appeared in opposition to the bill and felt that the government is to serve the taxpayers and not compete with them. They had no fault on page 3 with purchasing supplies but they were adamantly opposed to raising it from \$10,000 to \$25,000 on construction projects.

DISCUSSION OF SENATE BILL NO. 374: Sen. Fuller asked if this would preclude the use of private contractors. Chairman McCallum said they would not have to advertise for bids for anything up to \$25,000. Sen. Thomas felt that \$25,000 is a lot of money and there possibly could be some "hanky-panky". Mr. Verwolf stated that the difference would be whether or not they could use informal bidding or they would have to go to the formal sealed bids. Some of the items that are covered under the informal bid are not covered under the \$10,000. This was just raised from \$4,000 to \$10,000 last year but counties went from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Chairman McCallum asked Mr. Smith and Mr. Olson if they would still be opposed to this if they were representing the automobile dealers or the machinery dealers? Mr. Smith said that none of the retail merchants spoke in favor of this bill. They would much rather work with private business.

There being no further discussion, the hearing on SB 374 was closed.

FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF SB 140: Sen. Story said he would like to try to get this through the Senate and House and explained the proposed amendments that were prepared by Sonny Hansen and John Hollow. A copy of these amendments are attached to these minutes. He felt this would satisfy the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences as it lets the Department decide where the counties are qualified. Sen. Story MOVED THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENTS, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Dave Bohyer, Legislative Council, will have a grey bill printed for the committee's perusal on Thursday for final action.

MEETING ADJOURNED 2:30 p.m.



GEORGE McCALLUM, CHAIRMAN.

DATE _____

COMMITTEE ON _____ BILL NO. _____

VISITOR'S REGISTER

21-332-367-371

NAME	REPRESENTING	Check One	
		Support	Oppose
J. D. Holmes	Mont. Arts Advocacy	SB 367	SB 367
Don A. Morrison	City of Whitefish	SB 374 SB 332	
Howard Schwartz	Missoula County	SB 21	SB 21
Sara Tucker	State Librarian		SB 367
Dennis Fredericksen	Lewis & Clark Library		SB 367
Tom BRYAN	Helena Valley LDC Party	SB 21	
Bill Verwolf	City of Helena	SB 332 SB 374	
Mike Messer	MLET	SB 332	
Chad Smith	Mont Land Days Contractors		SB 374
Bud Shatz	City of Hamilton	SB 332	
JUDITH H CARLSON	SRS	SB 21	
James Whitlock	Hamilton	SB 332	
Jennifer Zwick	MSU HSU of U of M	SB 21	
Jane Harve	Montana Tourist Association	SB 21	
	Montana Coalition of Handicapped Individuals	SB 21	
Saura Clark	Big Bear ^{W. B. Phillips} Reserve ^{Reserve} Missoula	SB 21	
Standy Holmer	Summit, Missoula Mt.	SB 21	
Rita Flanagan	Handicapped Advisor / U of M	SB 21	
Charles Buff	Governor's Office	SB 21	
Bill Olson	Montana Contractors Assn		SB 374

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

NAME: Don H. Morrison DATE: 2/8/83

ADDRESS: Box 158, Whitefish 59937

PHONE: 862-2640

REPRESENTING WHOM? City of Whitefish

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 332

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: See attached

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

Annexation of Wholly Surrounded Property

Section 7-2-4501 M.C.A. currently gives first class cities the power to annex a parcel of land that is wholly surrounded by the city (except land being used for agriculture, mining, industrial, transportation, golf course, air field or cemetery. See 7-2-4503 M.C.A.).

We are not talking about land that is merely adjacent to the city limits, but that which is completely surrounded by the city limits.

Although the citizens of several 2nd and 3rd class cities suffer inequitable property tax burdens because of their inability to annex wholly surrounded developments, I will address my remarks to the City of Whitefish with which I am most familiar.

Twenty-four percent of Whitefish City taxpayers are retired and on fixed incomes. Most live in the city limits, although some live in the unincorporated "fringe." There is another population the same size as the city population which lives on the city's fringe, and, in some cases, in the heart of Whitefish but not officially in the city limits.

These noncity residents drive daily on city streets, daily use the library, call for fire and ambulance service, use the city parks, etc. and in many cases are hooked to city water. Yet they will not contribute to the city property tax base which supports the services they are consuming.

Attached is a survey of the amount of services these out-of-city but in-county persons consume for police, court and park services alone. The tax paying city residents, many of whom are elderly, can no longer afford to subsidize the free-loaders. In most of the cases, these people have built their homes purposely close to the city limits to use its services and give value to their property, but avoid their fair share of local taxes.

It is also ironic to note that on the average, 76% of all "citizens" attending City Council meetings and requesting one thing or another are not even city residents or taxpayers, but are these same people who live in these unincorporated areas, use and request city services, yet do not help pay for them. A good share of these areas have been wholly surrounded by the city for 10 to 30 years.

This very inequitable situation should be partially remedied by allowing 2nd and 3rd class cities to at least annex those urban areas that are wholly surrounded by the city limits. Your support of SB332 is fully justified and much appreciated.

Annual Service Costs by Recipient Category

<u>Recipient Category</u>	¹ <u>Police & Ct. Time</u>	<u>Share FY 82-83 Police & Ct. Budget</u>	<u>Revenue From Fines</u>	<u>Net Cost</u>
In city persons	43%	\$142,644	\$21,500	\$121,144
Out of city (in co.) persons	24%	79,615	12,000	67,615
Out of St. or co. persons	33%	109,471	16,500	92,971
	<u>100 %</u>	<u>\$331,731</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$281,730</u>

¹As measured by citations issued first quarter 1982

<u>Recipient Category</u>	¹ <u>Parks Use</u>	<u>Share FY 82-83 Parks Expenditures</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Net Cost</u>
In city persons	24%	\$ 13,016	- 0 -	\$ 13,016
Out of city (in co.) persons	32%	17,354	- 0 -	17,354
Out of St. or co. persons	44%	23,862	- 0 -	23,862
	<u>100 %</u>	<u>\$ 54,232</u>		<u>\$ 54,232</u>

¹Parks use survey conducted summer 1982 at city tennis courts and beach

NAME: Howard Schwartz DATE: 2/8/83

ADDRESS: 72 Missoula County Courthouse

PHONE: 721-5600 x 205

REPRESENTING WHOM? Missoula, Co. Commissioners

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: ~~SB 21~~ SB 21

DO YOU: SUPPORT? _____ AMEND? X OPPOSE? _____

COMMENTS: Add Section: if a Urban

Transportation District has been established
pursuant to MCA _____, the provisions of
this act apply only to property outside
the boundaries of that Transportation
District.

Transportation Districts can levy for Handicapped
& senior transportation. They should do so.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

MONTANA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

JOHN GREW, PRESIDENT
P.O. BOX 8183
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59807
(406) 543-8386

February 7, 1983

Sen. George McCallum
~~Ms. Kathleen McBride~~

Chair

Local Government Committee
Montana State Legislature
Capital Station
Helena, MT 59860

Senator McCallum
Dear Representative McBride:

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of the Montana Transit Association to express support for Senate Bill 21. The Transit Association supports this bill because it provides much needed increased funding to support services that are vital to many elderly and/or handicapped persons.

Demand for specialized transportation services is extremely high and in many communities this demand cannot be met by existing financial resources. Montana Transit Association systems are extensively involved in providing services to meet the transportation needs of elderly and/or handicapped citizens including the provision of wheelchair accessible fixed route service and specialized transportation. However, current funding for such services is limited and will be further constrained during upcoming years as federal funding on which we now rely heavily is cut back.

The Transit Association supports the options detailed in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Section 1 of the bill for providing specialized transportation services. We feel that these options provide the general purpose local governmental unit with the necessary flexibility to select the most cost effective and efficient approach to providing such services. Furthermore, we support the intent of the language found in paragraph 4 of Section 1 which encourages the coordination of specialized services within a region.

For the reasons detailed above, the Montana Transit Association urges the Local Government Committee to support Senate Bill 21.

Sincerely,

John R. Grew

John R. Grew,
President

JRG:ac

2, part 47, except where mutually agreed upon by the municipality and the freeholders of the area to be annexed.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 642, L. 1979.

7-2-4410 through 7-2-4420 reserved.

7-2-4421. When land conclusively presumed to be annexed. A tract or parcel of land that has been shown on municipal maps or plats as being within municipal boundaries but is later found to have been improperly or unofficially annexed is conclusively presumed to be annexed and may be so recorded if municipal taxes have been paid on the tract or parcel without protest for a period of 7 years.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1981.

Compiler's Comments

1981 Title: The title to Ch. 109, L. 1981 (HB 55), read: "An act prescribing conditions under which land is presumed to be annexed and may be so recorded."

Codification Instruction: Section 2, Ch. 109, L. 1981, provided: "Section 1 is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 7, chapter 2,

parts 42 through 47, and the provisions of Title 7, chapter 2, parts 42 through 47, apply to section 1."

Interim Study Committee Bill: Chapter 109, L. 1981 (HB 55), was introduced at the request of the interim Study Committee on Annexation Laws. See committee report, Legislative Council, 1980.

Part 45

Annexation of Wholly Surrounded Land

7-2-4501. Annexation of wholly surrounded land by cities of the first class. A city of the first class may include as part of the city any platted or unplatted tract or parcel of land that is wholly surrounded by the city upon passing a resolution of intent, giving notice, and passing a resolution of annexation. Except as provided in 7-2-4502, the provisions of 7-2-4312 through 7-2-4314 apply to these resolutions and the notice requirement.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1905; re-en. sec. 3214, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4978, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 4978, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 238, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 281, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 510, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-403(part); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 250, L. 1979.

7-2-4502. Protest not available. Such land shall be annexed, if so resolved, whether or not a majority of the resident freeholders of the land to be annexed object.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1905; re-en. sec. 3214, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4978, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 4978, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 238, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 281, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 510, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-403(part).

7-2-4503. Restrictions on annexation power. Land shall not be annexed under this part whenever the land is used:

(1) for agricultural, mining, smelting, refining, transportation, or any industrial or manufacturing purpose; or

(2) for the purpose of maintaining or operating a golf or country club, an athletic field or aircraft landing field, a cemetery, or a place for public or private outdoor entertainment or any purpose incident thereto.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1905; re-en. sec. 3214, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4978, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 4978, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 1957; amd.

BILL SUMMARIES
SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

SB 21
(Halligan)

Senate Bill 21 authorizes a local government to establish, operate and maintain a transportation system for handicapped persons. A permissive levy of not more than 1 mill is authorized to fund the system.

SB 332
(Marbut)

Senate Bill 332 authorizes any incorporated city to annex property which the city wholly surrounds upon the passage of a resolution of intent, proper notice, and resolution of annexation by the governing body.

SB 367
(Marbut)

Senate Bill 367 authorizes a county library budget board to oversee the budgets of a county's libraries. The bill also authorizes a maximum permissive levy of 5 mills for library services.

SB 374
(Dylan)

Senate Bill 374 authorizes municipalities to contract for repair and maintenance of buildings, roads, and bridges costing less than \$25,000 without advertising for bids. The bill also authorizes municipalities to solicit bids from a list of suppliers for certain purchases costing less than \$25,000. Solicitations from such lists would be exempt from advertising requirements.

The Honorable Senator McCallum
Chairman
Local Government Committee
Senate Chambers
State Capital
Helena, Montana 59601

9 February 1983

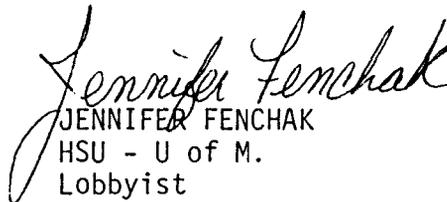
Dear Senator McCallum,

The Handicapped Student Union, HSU, at the University of Montana would like to voice support for Senate Bill 21, sponsored by Senator Mike Halligan. This bill would help provide for a much needed service to those individuals who require it the most - the disabled and elderly members of the community.

Some individuals with disabilities are fortunate enough to be able to provide for their own transportation. Others, however, have impairments which either, precludes them from transporting themselves, or, require specialized and costly modifications to the vehicle. These modifications often prevent the purchase of used vehicles, adding an additional expense. Since many disabled individuals are existing on a limited income, the vehicle, while a necessity, becomes a luxury. Without transportation those who require medical service the most have difficulty keeping appointments.

While we realize that no one likes to have their taxes increased through additional mill levy's, we feel that this bill has such a large impact on the community that the provision for transportation of the elderly and disabled should be given full support. We would like you to also consider, no one is immune to a disability, it can come suddenly or gradually. Also, most of us are not immune to age.

We urge you to vote "do pass" on Senate Bill 21.


JENNIFER FENCHAK
HSU - U of M.
Lobbyist

The Honorable Senator McCallum
Chairman
Local Government Committee
Senate Chambers
State Capital
Helena, Montana 59601

10, February 1983

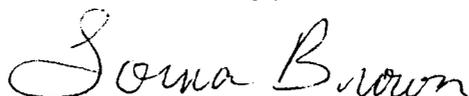
Dear Senator McCallum,

As a concerned citizen I strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 21. This would provide much needed funding to meet the transportation needs of the elderly and handicapped citizen such as myself.

Current funding is limited and threatens the existance of specialized transportation currently in operation.

Again, I strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 21.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorna Brown".

Lorna Brown
504 Consultant
(M.E.S.A. Project)

western montana regional community
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

225 W. Front Street
Missoula, MT 59802

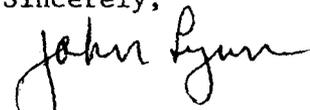
February 10, 1983

Senator McCallam
Chair: Local Government Committee
Senate Chambers
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Senator McCallam:

I write to urge your support of SB 21 authorizing local governments to levy a tax up to 1 mil to provide transportation to the elderly and handicapped. Without such transportation, our community based programs are not able to serve the large number of seriously mentally ill needing these programs. Without such support in the community, many of these individuals will return to Warm Springs State Hospital at incredible state expense. Thank you for considering this letter.

Sincerely,



John Lynn
Regional Aftercare Coordinator

JL/sd

L.I.G.H.T., Inc.
147 W. Main
Missoula, Montana 59802
(406) 549-0212
Hugh Standley, Chairman

February 10, 1983

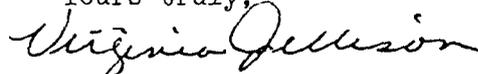
The Honorable Senator George McCallum, Chairman
Senate Local Government Committee
Senate Chambers
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Senator McCallum:

L.I.G.H.T. (Low Income Group for Human Treatment) urges you and your committee to support Senate Bill No. 21 sponsored by Senator Mike Halligan from Missoula.

Our organization advocates for low income, elderly and handicapped issues and we have found in our many years of helping people that transportation is one of the most important needs for handicapped people. Without specialized transportation, handicapped and many elderly people cannot reach basic services and live independent lives. We feel that S.B. 21 would allow local governments to provide that service if they wish. Also, this bill has the unique characteristic of allowing options so that a rural area that doesn't have public transportation can still provide specialized transportation by contracting with private providers.

Please support S.B. 21, An Act to Authorize Local Governments to Levy Not More Than 1 Mill of Property Taxes to Provide Transportation Services to Handicapped Persons. Thank you for considering our views.

Yours truly,

Virginia Jellison, Project Director

Honorable Senator MCallam,

I am writing to give you assurance that as a disabled veteran of Vietnam, I am praying that you support Senate Bill #21.

I support this bill because I feel that it is a need for all disabled people. With the passing of this bill, our government would express concern that is needed during these hard times.

Sincerely



RODNEY R. KENNEDY
405 W. Alder
Missoula MT 59802

February 10, 1983

The Honorable Senator George McCallum, Chairman
Senate Local Government Committee
Senate Chambers
State Capital
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Senator McCallum:

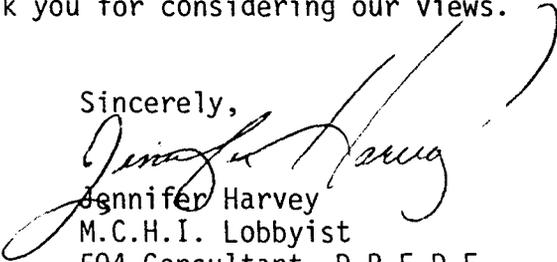
M.C.H.I. (Montana Coalition for Handicapped Individuals) urges you and your committee to support Senate Bill 21 sponsored by Senator Mike Halligan from Missoula.

The membership of our organization encompasses a wide range of disability. The term, "handicapped individual", is defined as one who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of the individuals's major life activities, such as performing manual tasks, walking, speaking, breathing, learning, or working. A number of the membership are elderly, age 65 or over.

Because of medical expense and/or income limited to V.A. Benifits, S.S.I., or S.S.D.I., most of these individuals cannot afford personal specialized transportation. There are currently only two transportation districts (Missoula, Greatfalls) and two municipal systems (Helena, Billings) which provide specialized transportation, and the Non Profit Organizations which are struggling to fulfill the transportation needs of these individuals are threatened due to lack of funding. As a result, the majority of the handicapped and elderly in the state of Montana have no access to the transportation they need to reach basic services and employment to lead independent lives. We feel that S.B. 21 would allow local governments to provide that service if they choose.

Please support S.B. 21, An Act to Authorize Local Governments to Levy Not More Than 1 Mill of Property Taxes to Provide Transportation Services to Handicapped Persons. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Harvey

M.C.H.I. Lobbyist

504 Consultant, D.R.E.D.F.

Disability Rights Education Defense Fund