

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & AGING

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN JOHN COBB, on January 27, 1993, at
8:05 A:M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. John Cobb, Chairman (R)
Sen. Mignon Waterman, Vice Chairman (D)
Sen. Chris Christiaens (D)
Rep. Betty Lou Kasten (R)
Sen. Tom Keating (R)
Rep. David Wanzenried (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lisa Smith, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Lois Steinbeck, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Connie Huckins, Office of Budget & Program
Planning
John Huth, Office of Budget & Program Planning
Billie Jean Hill, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION/INDEPENDENT
LIVING
Executive Action: NONE

HEARING ON VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION/INDEPENDENT LIVING

Tape No. 1:Side 1

The following interest groups were represented at the hearing.

Montana Association for Rehabilitation, Montana Association of
Rehabilitation Facilities, and Montana Head Injury Association:
Mr. James Smith EXHIBIT 1

Independent Living: Mr. Pat Dome; Mr. Gerry Merritt; Mr. Robert
Ellesch; Mr. John Shea, President, Montana Independent Living
Project Board; Ms. Dorinda Loral, Montana Independent Living;
Mr. Bob Austen; Ms. Dawn Albright; Ms. June Hermanson

Governor's Committee on Employment for People With Disabilities:
Mr. Robert LeMieux. EXHIBIT 2

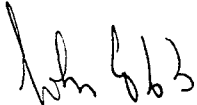
Vocational Rehabilitation: Mr. David Wise; Ms. Yvonne Eades;
Mr. Clark S. Gilbert; Ms. Kari Trueax; Mr. Keith Plimmes; Ms. Kay
Kjellstrom; Mr. Dick House; Mr. Gino Latto; Mr. Mike Kelly;
Mr. Bill Wound; Ms. Sharon Miller; Ms. Ellen Vogelsang;

Legislators: SEN. FRED VAN VALKENBERG and REP. ERVIN DAVIS, HB
78, EXHIBIT 3

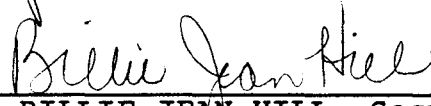
Others: Ms. Raelen Williard, EXHIBIT 4; Ms. Sandy Armsted,
EXHIBIT 5; Mr. Dan Shea, EXHIBIT 6

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:00 P:M



JOHN COBB, Chairman



BILLIE JEAN HILL, Secretary

JC/bjh

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HUMAN SERVICES

SUB-COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE

1-27-82

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. JOHN COBB, CHAIRMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SEN. MIGNON WATERMAN, VICE CHAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SEN. CHRIS CHRISTIAENS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SEN. TOM KEATING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REP. BETTY LOU KASTEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REP. DAVID WANZENRIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Montana Association for Rehabilitation • Montana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities • Montana Head Injury Association •

Testimony to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services

by

Jim Smith

January 27, 1993

References:

LFA Volume II; B-52 (Executive Budget Comparison), B-59 (Executive Budget Modifications—Funding Switch), B-60 (Provider Rate Increases), B-79,80,81 (Program Descriptions for Vocational Rehabilitation, Visual Services, Disability Determination).

Governor's Executive Budget; B-44,45 (Program Description and Executive Modifications).

Chairman Cobb and Members of the Subcommittee, my name is Jim Smith and I am representing the three organizations listed above during the 1993 Session. Thanks very much for the opportunity to spend some time with you this morning discussing several issues of importance to people with disabilities in Montana.

These three organizations have five (5) concerns:

1. Funding for the Vocational Rehabilitation/Visual Services Division at SRS, including reinstatement of the FTEs lost to the 5% reduction and the December 29 Vacancy Motion.

In the 1983 Session the general funds appropriated to the Voc Rehab Division were terminated and a funding switch was approved. This funding switch replaced general funds with funds from the Industrial Accident Rehabilitation Account (IARA) at the Workers Compensation Division.

Significant changes in Workers Compensation, especially those enacted in the 1987 Session, have diminished the ability of Voc Rehab to utilize IARA funds.

The Executive Budget includes a modification to replace IARA funds with general funds. It is absolutely imperative that this modification be approved, if Montana's public policy is to continue a viable, effective vocational rehabilitation program.

I have worked with the Voc Rehab division to estimate the impact on the service system if the modification is not approved. That information is contained in the handout, Attachment A.

The other major issue with regard to funding for the Voc Rehab/Visual Services Division deals with the staff lost due to the 5% reductions and the Swysgood Motion of January 6. I must emphasize that most (87%) of the Voc Rehab staff are field-based, and providing direct client services. Six and one half (6.5) FTE were lost to this division. All but one were field- based, located in Great Falls, Butte, Billings and Missoula. Positions lost included Voc Rehab Counselors, an Orientation and Mobility Specialist, a Driver, and the Training and Development Specialist located in the central office here in Helena.

In addition, 2.5 staff were lost in the Disability Determination Bureau. The 2.5 positions were vacant as of 12-29-92. These positions are 100% federal funded.

2. Reduction in Waiting Lists through additional appropriation to the Vocational Rehabilitation Extended Employment Program (VREE).

VREE is a relatively small, but very important program in Voc Rehab. It is 100% general fund. It leverages no federal matching dollars. It does enable persons with severe, permanent disabilities to work in vocational settings. Voc Rehab is currently serving 145 clients through the VREE program. Many of these persons are head injured; some are physically disabled; some suffer from a serious mental illness. VREE provides a long-term employment opportunity for these individuals.

The 1991 Legislature appropriated an additional \$200,00 to this program, which was used to serve an additional 30 people in VREE. At the very least, we ask that the current level for VREE be maintained in the 1995 biennium. Beyond that, Voc Rehab has identified approximately 80 other individuals who could be appropriately served through the VREE program. If there is any interest in expanding the funding for this program we would work with the division and the Subcommittee to identify a reasonable target of people and dollars.

3. A Cost-of- Living Adjustment for the Rehabilitation Facilities (Sheltered Workshops) that contract for services with the Vocational Rehabilitation Division.

These private, non-profit, community based providers are trying to do business with the State of Montana. Their fixed costs are real and they are increasing.

At the very least, we are asking the Subcommittee to approve a provider rate increase in the 3-5% range for each year of the biennium.

We were very pleased to read the LFA Report entitled Human Service Provider Rates, which was presented to the Legislative Finance Committee in November. We were even more pleased that the Senate Finance and Claims Committee moved to adopt a 'current level budgeting methodology' for the fee based providers in this state. We feel that relief is in sight for these providers.

However, these providers need some consideration in this session, by this body in order to maintain a current level of service for the next two years.

4. Funding for Montana's Independent Living Centers; House Bill 78.

The Independent Living Centers in Montana assist individuals with disabilities, employers, and communities to understand, adapt and accommodate disability issues.

HB 78, sponsored by Rep. Ervin Davis, contains an appropriation of \$400,000 to enhance and expand these efforts. If HB 78 is approved, Independent Living services will be available more equally throughout the entire state.

5. Funding for Traumatic Brain Injury; Senate Bill 145.

We have been discussing Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) with this Subcommittee for quite some time. Senate Bill 145, sponsored by Mignon Waterman, actually does something about TBI. SB 145 does the following: 1) defines TBI in the Montana statutes; establishes a State Special Account, a TBI Trust Fund; increases the energy conservation speeding violation fine from \$5 to \$20, with \$15 deposited in the TBI Trust Fund; charges SRS/Voc Rehab with developing and operating a two-year demonstration project to identify appropriate services for TBI survivors.

We need contingency language from this Subcommittee to be included in the General Appropriations Act stipulating the following:

'If SB 145 is passed by the legislature and signed into law, SRS/Voc Rehab is appropriated \$300,000 to conduct the demonstration project activities called for in SB 145.'

Basically, SRS/Voc Rehab needs appropriations authority, and the ability to borrow from the general fund the sum of \$300,000 to conduct the demonstration project called for in SB 145. The amount would be repaid with funds from the TBI Trust Fund before the end of the 1995 biennium. This will enable us to be about the business of serving people with TBI, and of establishing delivery systems while funds accumulate in the TBI Trust Fund.

Thanks once again for your time and consideration this morning. There are many people here who want to speak with you about the difference vocational rehabilitation has made in their lives, and about the positive impact of vocational rehabilitation to our communities, employers and businesses. Montana has made an investment in the rehabilitation of people with disabilities. This morning you will hear about the return Montana is getting on that investment. I will be pleased to be of assistance, get you additional information, or answer any questions you may have as you consider these issues.

Attachment A

Vocational Rehabilitation

Impact of not Replacing Workers Compensation (IARA) Funds with General Funds

1. Reduction in Funding:

	FY 94	FY 95
General Funds	(244,027)	(433,944)
Federal Funds	(936,825)	(1,827,382)
Total	(1,180,852)	(2,261,326)

2. Reduction in FTE	(20.00)	(35.00)
---------------------	---------	---------

3. Reduction in Clients Served by Voc Rehab

(2,520)	(3,780)
---------	---------

• The Executive Budget includes \$244,027 general fund in FY 94 and \$433,944 in FY 95 to replace Workers Comp. (IARA) funding currently being used as state match for federal funds available under Section 110 (Benefits) of the Rehabilitation Act. This modification is part of a three year phase-in plan that will totally replace the IARA with general funds over that period of time. With this modification, the total Voc Rehab budget will remain the same. Without the modification, the Voc Rehab budget will be reduced by \$1.2 million in FY 94 and by \$2.3 million in FY '95.

• The number of Workers Comp. clients served by Voc Rehab has decreased from 1,710 in FY 87 to 389 in FY '92. At the same time the total number of clients served has increased 6,602 in FY '87 to 7,830 in FY '92.

• Workers Comp. funding supplements field office salaries and pays for client benefits. If the modification is not passed, the Section 110 program will be reduced as follows (in total funding):

	FY 94	FY 95
Admin.(Salaries)	527,004	937,155
Benefits	618,662	1,100,140
Sub Total	1,145,666	2,037,295
Penalty		
Maint. of Effort	35,186	224,031
Total Reduction	1,180,852	2,261,326

• Field office staff would be drastically reduced if this modification is not passed. VR field staff would be reduced by 20.00 FTE (32%) in FY 94 and 35.00 FTE (56%) in FY 1995. Currently VR has 62.25 field office staff. As a result, federal sanctions will be taken---the federal Rehabilitation Act requires adequate staffing for the program. Decreases such as these will not be allowed.

• The federal government has serious concerns about the legality of using the Workers' Comp. money as state match. The federal Rehabilitation Commissioner wrote a letter to VR saying the practice is "unacceptable." She stopped short of saying "illegal" because she understands the state is in financial trouble and she understands the phase-in plan in the Governor's budget. However, if a federal audit is conducted, all expenses may be disallowed.

• The reduction of staffing and benefits means that 2,520 clients (32%) in FY 94 and 3,780 clients (48%) in FY 95 will not be served.

• VR will not be able to meet its maintenance of effort level. The VR program will lose \$35,186 in FY 94 and \$224, 031 in FY 95 in federal funds for maintenance of effort penalties.

1-1 memo
Mr. Chairman and Subcommittee Members :

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 1-27-93
SB

I am Robert LeMieux. I am a member of the SRS Advisory committee and also a member of the Governor's Committee on Employment for People With Disabilities for more than a decade. I am an opponent of a SRS budget cut.

Since the deaf people are known as invisible disabled ones, because you never noticed their disability at all until they use sign language as their mode of expressive-receptive communication. According to American With Disabilities Act deaf ones are mandated to be empowered and became independent livings by having the full supported services through the vocational training and secondary education. So they can secure jobs in order to make living and become useful taxpayers.

For an example, my two deaf daughters, MSDB graduates, got their full supported services from the Social Rehabilitation Services to acquire university education. They graduated in 1980 and 1982 respectfully. One of them is a third grade teacher at MSDB, and other is an instructor and also a coordinator of the interpreters' training programs at Portland, Oregon community college. They thanked the SRS for making their careers successful and worthwhile. They are very advocates to see deaf persons have better chance in their employments.

Please give your full consideration to keep the full implementation of SRS budget.

Thank you.



The Big Sky Country

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1-27-93
SB

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE ERVIN DAVIS

HOUSE DISTRICT 53

HELENA ADDRESS:
CAPITOL STATION
HELENA, MONTANA 59620
PHONE: (406) 444-4800

HOME ADDRESS:
604 N. MAIN
CHARLO, MONTANA 59824
PHONE: (406) 644-2740

COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION
STATE ADMINISTRATION
AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY

HOUSE BILL 78

Mr. Chairman and members of the Appropriations^{Sub-}Committee: for the record, my name is Ervin Davis, Representative HD 53, Lake County.

HB 78 is being introduced to appropriate money to fund independent living services for persons with severe disabilities in an amount of \$200,000 each year of the next biennium to bring parity in the delivery of independent living services to all disabled Montanans regardless of where they reside.

JUSTIFICATION:

How can Independent Living make such a request with Montana's budget in its current situation?

Over the past year the Independent Living Centers have served some 500+ individuals, many of which are severely disabled. A percentage of these individuals would be institutionalized if not for independent living services. An individual who has had an accident, becomes a quadriplegic and prepares to leave the rehabilitation center, must often times look at a nursing home as

the next step, but with independent living services they can avoid the nursing home step; thus, saving Medicaid dollars that are spent on institutional care.

There are proponents on HB 78. I reserve the right to close.

* * * * *

CLOSING:

The \$400,000 being requested for independent living services will cost the state in the initial outlay of funds; however, the state will receive twice that amount back in institutional care cost savings, Medicaid costs to severely disabled, payroll taxes, income taxes, and federal match money. Your serious consideration in favor of HB 78 is being sought. Thanks for your time and hearing on HB 78.

ERVIN DAVIS
Representative, HD 53

ED:vn

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 78
2 INTRODUCED BY DAVIS
3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY TO
5 FUND INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH SEVERE
6 DISABILITIES."

7
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation. There is
10 appropriated from the general fund to the department of
11 social and rehabilitation services for the biennium ending
12 June 30, 1995, the sum of \$400,000 to provide independent
13 living services for persons with severe disabilities, as
14 authorized in 53-19-103.

-End-

EXHIBIT _____
DATE _____
SB _____

HB 78

INTRODUCED BILL



Montana Independent Living Project

38 South Last Chance Gulch • Helena, Montana 59601
(406) 442-5755 or 1-800-735-6457 (Voice/TDD)

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 1-27-93

~~CD~~

January 27, 1993

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee:

My name is Raelen Williard and I am the Information Officer at Montana Independent Living Project (MILP) in Helena. I am also hearing impaired and wear bilateral hearing aids. I am here to speak in support of independent living services provided through our four independent living centers in state. I want to explain how those services benefit people with disabilities.

Our clients, called consumers, benefit from our independent living services which help them to develop the skills and get the services they need to live independently at home rather than in a nursing home or in an institutional setting. Our consumers can receive assistance in adjusting to a disability and problem solving through the Peer Helping Program. This program enables people with disabilities to meet other people who have experienced and adjusted to a disability. The Peer Helpers offer their skill and experience to those encountering similar adjustment challenges. Finally, the consumers benefit by being able to be active members of their communities. They have jobs, go shopping, take classes, meet with friends and family, go to church, and generally live like others without disabilities.

Montana is a big state with a total land area of 145,392 square miles and a population of 808,488 giving us an average of approximately 5.6 people per square mile. Our consumers are people of all ages with a broad range of disabilities-varying from mobility impairments to multiple sclerosis to head injury to visual and hearing impairments. Some of them live in cities, but many live in small towns and rural locations. We serve people in places like Wolf Point, Ekalaka, Wilsall, Gardiner, and Noxon. Like the circuit-riding missionaries who traveled Montana in the 1800s so they could be in touch with people, our independent specialists provide personal assistance to people with disabilities by traveling to their homes and working them.

Our umbrella agency is the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. During the past 12 years, costs of providing basic services have risen with inflation. Unfortunately, this Division is still being funded at 1981 levels. Therefore, I am asking you to support efforts to provide funding for the independent living centers to continue to offer services to people with disabilities who depend on those services to maintain their independence.

INDEPENDENT LIVING IN MONTANA

Independent living services in Montana are provided through four independent living centers (ILCs): The Montana Independent Living Project (MILP) in Helena, Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT) in Billings, North Central Independent Living Services (NCILS) in Great Falls, and Summit Independent Living Center in Missoula. Montana's ILCs provide statewide services and are part of a larger network of approximately 300 ILCs.

The four ILCs in Montana are private, non-profit organizations operated by and for people with disabilities. All maintain a majority of persons with disabilities on their boards of directors and actively recruit and hire people with disabilities for staff positions. All of the centers share a common goal of empowering people with disabilities through the provision of supportive services and involvement in systems advocacy activities. The primary service components are information and referral, skills training, advocacy, and peer counseling services. The centers do not provide residential services, but rather assist persons with disabilities in securing and maintaining independent living options of their choice. Independent living philosophy stresses a self-help approach to service delivery with a strong emphasis on peer role modeling and support. Services are not limited to a single disability group, but are offered to persons with a wide range of disabling conditions. Over 500 Montanans with disabilities receive independent living services each year.

The day-to-day activities of the centers also include extensive involvement in systems advocacy efforts aimed at increasing awareness of disability issues, eliminating attitudinal and architectural barriers, improving service systems and enforcing civil rights for people with disabilities. ILC staff members routinely provide technical assistance and consultation services in the areas of accessibility, transportation, adaptive equipment, housing, and disability rights.

With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Montana's ILCs are experiencing ever-increasing demands for services. This includes not only informing people with disabilities about their rights under ADA, but also providing a wide range of information and technical assistance services to government agencies, employers, and private businesses. ADA holds bright promise for Americans with disabilities; however, its benefits will only be fully realized if disability organizations such as independent living centers play a major role in the implementation of this new law.

A detailed map of Montana showing its county boundaries and names. The counties are arranged from north to south: Lincoln, Sanders, Lake, Missoula, Glacier, Pondera, Teton, Cascade, Lewis & Clark, Powell, Granite, Ravalli, Deer, Lodgepole, Jefferson, Gallatin, Madison, Beaverhead, Park, Sweet Grass, Wheatland, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Petroleum, Garfield, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Roosevelt, Daniels, Sheridan, McCone, Dawson, Prairie, Wilbaux, Fallon, Carter, Powder River, Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater, Yellowstone, Treasure, and Custer. Major cities are marked with dots and labels: Helena, Great Falls, Butte, Bozeman, and Billings. The map also shows the state's borders with Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Canada.

EXHIBIT 5
~~DATE~~
DATE 1-27-93
SB

To Chairman Cobb and Members of the Subcommittee;

My name is Sandy Armstead and I am an employee of the Department of Administration, but I am here on my own time and am speaking as a private citizen.

I am in favor of and would like to encourage you to support House Bill 78 to fund the North-central Independent Living Services in Great Falls and Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow in Billings. These centers strive to assist their clients towards living independently and thereby achieving a better quality of life. This is a philosophy that I strongly support because I know personally that these ideals can be reached.

I was born in Butte, Montana in 1960 and at the age of 14 months came down with the red measles which left me with Cerebral Palsy. Life was harder for people with disabilities back in the 60s. There were few programs that offered assistance to obtain adaptive equipment that might be needed and fewer programs that encouraged independence because, back then, the disabled were not expected to succeed. It was assumed that our families would always take care of us and that we couldn't possibly want for anything more than to exist.

Fortunately, no one told ME this. Nobody told me not to want for more and I remember as a small child I use to dream of a wonderful home I would someday own complete with a large yard and trees. It was then that I started to set and achieve my goals one by one.

As I grew up more programs became available to assist people with disabilities achieve some of their goals and I participated in many of these programs. I was able to obtain an education and eventually employment. I was able to achieve my independence and I now own that wonderful home I dreamed of as a child. I work, pay taxes, use state recreational facilities and always exercise my right to vote. I have succeed.

The independent living programs are needed by disabled Montanans who are not content to just exist and who work hard to achieve a better quality of life. I would like to strongly urge you to provide adequate funding for the independent living programs so they can continue to serve Montanans in 35 counties.

27 Jan 1993

EXHIBIT _____
DATE 1-27-93
SB _____

To The Human Service Appropriations Subcommittee

From the Montana Low Income Coalition

Re: Promised Hearings on Options After the Options Were
Developed and on the Table

Somehow, somewhere, something seems to have gone dramatically wrong in the process. It is our understanding that after all options were developed and on the agenda as such, there would be public hearings regarding each of the options that the Committee was considering. These hearings would be preceded by properly noticed hearings so that all affected groups would have an opportunity to attend. Those hearings have not taken place and now the Committee seems to be at the stage where it will take what it calls executive action.

The process for hearings at the end was described in a letter to affected groups from this Committee. In relevant part it declares:

...I am requesting that we do not have big hearings on each option. An option is presented and explained what it would do. Then the committee will ask questions, other legislators will ask questions and then the public may ask questions or comments.

But it is not necessary to have big hearings. These options are for the committee to look at and discuss and then we will narrow down the the options to alternatives or possible ones we want to do or at least discuss in more detail. Then we will have a public forum after proper public notice has been given to see what everyone thinks about the options. That is where it would be more appropriate to have a larger public hearing. In other words please don't panic or become disturbed by every option one sees. Let the process work and allow the committee to understand the options and programs. There will be plenty of time to have larger hearings later.

As we see this process to date, there seems to be options running everywhere, in every direction, the Committee has not narrowed down the options, at least in a way that is known publically, and there have been no public hearings on the options, nor are any scheduled.

The Committee appears to be ready for executive action, a process that allows for little public input, and even less meaningful input. Before executive action is taken, it seems proper for the Committee to narrow down its options as suggested in the Committee's letter, and then for each program, to give the proper public notice of hearing so that affected or interested members of the public can attend and give input if they desire. But as it stands now, that process has not taken place. Our groups have been patiently waiting for the notices of hearings on the pertinent subject matter.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Shea

Lobbyist, Montana Low Income Coalition

North Central Independent Living Services, Inc.

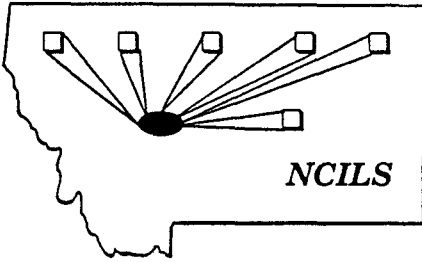


EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1/27/93
SB _____

104 Second St. So., Suite 101
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 452-9834

January 27, 1993

For the record

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Tom Osborn, Executive Director of North Central Independent Living Services. I am also a consumer, an individual with personal experience with a disability. This testimony is in support of HB78, an appropriations bill that would provide general fund support for statewide independent living services.

One primary service component provided through our independent living centers is peer advocacy/service coordination and with that I would like to provide an example. We have, in the past and currently, participated with consumers in discharge planning from nursing homes and/or other institutions. This is a very cost effective measure in that it allows the consumers to maintain their home within the community and eliminate a significant cost increase for institution or nursing home placement. This service also provides assistance in maintaining the individual's home setting when the only alternative living arrangement would be a nursing home.

Please keep in mind that the individuals we work with and for have severe disabilities and often times without this assistance they do end up within the institutional care setting.

However, due to our current budget restraints we are only able to address a small percentage of these needs within our region. Mr. Chairman and community members, it simply makes sense to spend money in a cost effective manner that decreases current and long term demand upon statewide expenditures for the operation of institutional care.

We thank you for your time and consideration given to HB78.

North Central Independent Living Services,

Tom Osborn

Tom Osborn
Executive Director

TO:cnc

Phone: 452-9834
1-800-823-6245
Voice/TDD

For the record

EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1/27/93
SB

Mr. Chairman and sub committee members:

My name is Sandra Schaefer,

I was a housewife for 13 years before I decided to look for a job. After 2 years of having no luck in finding a job. I went and attended vocational technical school taking classes in market adversting, data entry operator and medical terminology. This led me to get a good job in the Claim dept for the Federal Employee Program at the Blue Cross in Great Falls. I have worked there for 10 years now but there a talk that the Federal Employee Program might be moving to Helena, then employees will be transferred, too. In this case it will necessiate me to go back to the vocational technical school to take updated vocational courses in order to keep up with my job. That means the vocational rehabilitation will give the full supported service such as interpreting service and notetaking, etc. to facillitate my training. Empowerment is mandated for me to lead my independent life.

I really believe that the Vocational tech. does a great job for the deaf and other handicap. I would like to see all handicapped have the same opportunities as I did in getting good job and benefits.

Testimony to the Joint Human Services Committee

VR Issues

For the Record

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the record my name is Wallace Melcher and I am the President/CEO of Helena Industries, here in Helena. For the past 23 years, Helena Industries has been assisting persons with Vocational handicaps to learn the skills necessary to find and maintain gainful employment. This work is a labor of economics both in terms of the personal financial situations of those we serve and in terms of the larger economic picture of the State of Montana. In the first case, we are thrilled to be a part of the self-sufficiency and self respect that comes when an individual finds a job and goes to work. In the second case, it is gratifying to see individuals who have been largely dependent on public supported programs, become contributors to society rather than depending on it for their sole support. As an illustration of what I am talking about, during this last year Helena Industries saw 156 persons considered to be Vocationally challenged go to work through its various programs. These individuals earned approximately \$800,000.00 in wages and paid approximately \$175,000.00 in taxes. I'm sure you would agree with me that the money that the State of Montana spent on the Vocational training services for these individuals was a good investment. They gave someting back to the public trust and, even more importantly, they discovered pride and potential within themselves that many of them never imagined that they had.

These employee attributes are certainly due to the loyalty and comittment of the individuals employed. The good character of these employees is complimented, however, by the fact that there are resource people available who will help them learn new skills and work through any problems that they encounter on the job and in other aspects of their lives. In short, these extended employment services provide a long-term resource for assiting persons with disabilities to remain happily and gainfully employed. Currently, there are over 80 individuals waiting to receive Extended Employment services. During the next bienium officials within Vocational Rehabilitation have indicated that, with new funding, they would be able to serve 40 of these individuals at a cost of approximately \$250,000.00. I encourage the committee to carefully consider funding these 40 additional Extended Employment slots.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, in conclusion, I would like you to know that I am aware of the devestating fiscal problems that face the State of Montana. As a Montanan I feel an obligation to support responsible solutions to the problems that the State is dealing with. At the same time I feel that Montana has made a committment to its citizens in need and that even in the worst of times we cannot turn our back on these individuals. Thank you for all that Montana has done in the past for persons with Vocational disabilities and may God bless you in the diffiicult decisions that you have to make.

Get the Record

EXHIBIT 9
DATE 1/27/93
SB _____

TO: Representative Cobb and Subcommittee Members:

We the undersigned, members of the Silver Bow Chapter of the Blind, are in support of the budget presented to the Appropriations Sub-committee for the Visual Services Division of the Social Rehabilitation Service Agency. We are further concerned and against any legislative action which would eliminate any instructional positions or support staff for these individuals. Recent action mentioned in the media indicated that all positions not filled would be eliminated to help balance the budget, this would mean that one Orientation and Mobility instructor and one part time driver (aid to drive visually impaired Rehabilitation Instructor) would be eliminated. These positions are vital components to our rehabilitation and our ability to remain active and contributing Montana citizens.

Rutha L. Hertz	Mona Fitzpatrick
Frank Marshall	Alfred Mengon
Grace Hallack	Robert Brooks
Mildred Adams	Charles & Edward
Mike Adams	Blanche Brooks
Frieda Sommer	
Kelmi Jackson	
Elsie Matkovic	
ASHEWAH	
Sharon Metz	
Sharon Metz	

For the record

DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

DATE 1/27/93



MARC RACICOT
GOVERNOR

PETER S. BLOUKE, R.
DIRECTOR

STATE OF MONTANA

P.O. BOX 4210
HELENA, MONTANA 59604-4210
(406) 444-5600
FAX (406) 444-1900

January 26, 1993

To: Lois Steinbeck

From: *MSB*
Mike Billings

Subject: Response to Representative Kasten's question
about reducing TEAMS postage costs by not
requiring monthly reporting

If monthly reporting were to be discontinued for AFDC recipients without income, we estimate that TEAMS postage costs could be reduced by about \$4,550 per month, 50% of which would be general fund. Therefore, an estimated \$27,300 of general fund could be saved annually.

The Department is currently in the process of eliminating the requirement for monthly reporting for AFDC recipients who do not have earned income. This change requires modifications to TEAMS and to existing rules. The earliest we can implement the change will be July 1, 1993, although this may be delayed because the changes to TEAMS required to accommodate the selective elimination of monthly reporting are extensive and compete with higher priority modifications.

For the record

EXHIBIT 11
DATE 1/27/93
71

Donna Reinhardt
1206 Cooke Avenue
Billings, Montana 59101

Date: January 27, 1993

RE: HB-78

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am Donna Reinhardt from Billings, Advocate for Independent Living Services and Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow Board Member.

LIFTT serves 18 counties in Southeastern Montana. The goal of our services is to empower people with disabilities by providing support services, Information and Referral, Skills Training, Advocacy, and Direct Assistance. Direct Services is for equipment needed that is not provided by Medicaid, Medicare, Insurance Co. or any other Human Service Agencies.

We are asking for additional funds to strengthen programs already in place. The funds would allow the hiring of additional service provider's, outreach workers and funds that would provide service to additional consumers currently on a waiting list. Also a permanent position to do Accessibility Surveys. Which would provide additional funds from fee for services contracts for Accessibility Surveys.

Since ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) became a law, LIFTT has become the center for information regarding accessibility in our area. LIFTT contracted with the city of Billings and Yellowstone County to train staff to do in house Accessibility Surveys. The Bureau of Land Management contracted with LIFTT to do Accessibility Surveys on all of their recreational areas and buildings in Montana. NCILS (North Central Independent Living Services) in Great Falls helped with this large project (fee for service contract). Our Staff does not have the time to do this very important job and service each consumer. The Center has a hourly worker, paid with contract fees, helping with the surveys but would like a full time position as access is important for people with disabilities.

Page 2
Testimony
HB-78

The day to day activities of the center also includes extensive involvement in systems advocacy and efforts aimed to increasing awareness of disability issues; ex: accessible housing, eliminating attitudinal as well as architectural barriers, improving service systems, and enforcing Civil Rights for people with disabilities. ILC'S staff members routinely provide technical assistance and consultation services in areas such as transportation, adaptive equipment, housing and disability rights.

My written testimony will be forth coming. Thank you for your attention.

NAME _____

ADDRESS

HOME PHONE

WORK PHONE

REPRESENTING

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL?

DO YOU:

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

AMEND

COMMENTS:

WITNESS STATEMENT

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER**

Shuman Law COMMITTEE BILL NO.

DATE 1-27-73 SPONSOR(S)

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
LAUDIE RIDL	MAB		
ALICE RIDL	MAB		
ELLEN VOGELSANG	MHIA	✓	
Sed-A. Shuman	DESENAM	✓	
Robert Ellegren	DESENAM (online)		
DAVID WISE	MAD		
VERA H. H.	MAD		
	UNION		
Wanda E. F.	MAD		
	MAD		

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER

COMMITTEE

BILL NO.

DATE _____

SPONSOR (S)

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
L. J. Jones		X	
R. J. Jones		X	
Ram. Ram.		X	
J. J. Jones		X	
J. J. Jones		X	
John + Patricia Deane		/	
Doris Jones		/	
Mr. Jones		/	
Fred L. Williams		/	
W. J. Jones	A-6 15		
Frank P. Wolf		/	
Brian Williams			
Sandra Crumstead		/	

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER**

House of Representatives COMMITTEE BILL NO.
DATE 1-27 SPONSOR(S)

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		
<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>	<i>[Handwritten Name]</i>		

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER

DATE 1-17-68 COMMITTEE _____ BILL NO. _____
SPONSOR(S) _____

PLEASE PRINT

[illegible]

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

DATE 1/27/93

JOINT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON Human Services

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: _____

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
Jane Heaman'sen	Centers for T/Sec	HB 78	✓	
Madonna Fowles	ILC	HB 72	✓	

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY