

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Call to Order: By Senator Bill Yellowtail, on March 3, 1993, at 10:12 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Bill Yellowtail, Chair (D)
Sen. Steve Doherty, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Sue Bartlett (D)
Sen. Chet Blaylock (D)
Sen. Bob Brown (R)
Sen. Bruce Crippen (R)
Sen. Eve Franklin (D)
Sen. Lorents Grosfield (R)
Sen. Mike Halligan (D)
Sen. John Harp (R)
Sen. David Rye (R)
Sen. Tom Towe (D)

Members Excused: NONE

Members Absent: NONE

Staff Present: Valencia Lane, Legislative Council
Rebecca Court, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing:	HB 340
	HB 187
	HB 405
Executive Action:	HB 340
	HB 187

HEARING ON HB 340

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Representative Dave Brown, District 72, said HB 340 would create a new offense for attempting to purchase alcoholic beverages by underage individuals. HB 340 would give bartenders a reasonable basis to charge an offense for selling to underage individuals if there was proof the bartender took certain steps to find out if the individual was of legal drinking age. A purchaser would have

had to presented false documentation that an ordinary and prudent person would accept. The appearance of the purchaser would have to be such that an ordinary and prudent person would believe the purchaser was of legal age for the purchase of alcoholic beverages. The sale of goods had to have been made in good faith that the individual was of legal age. Rep. Brown said it would be unlikely for an individual to be charged for possession to purchase on a first offense. Rep. Brown urged support for HB 340.

Proponents' Testimony:

Mark Staples, Montana Taverns Association, said HB 340 was introduced because of bad publicity and bad results of teenage drinking. Statistics show that a minority of teenage drinking occurs on licensed premises. Mr. Staples said HB 340 was modeled after a similar bill in North Dakota which has lessened the incidents of teenage purchase in bars. Mr. Staples said it is not an offense for an underage individual to try to purchase alcoholic beverages under present law. However, bartenders face stiff penalties if they are caught selling to an underage individual. Bartenders could face a \$1500 fine on the Justice Court level in the local community, a \$1500 fine from the Department of Revenue, and a black mark on their record. Mr. Staples said after there are three black marks on a record, the liquor license would be taken away. HB 340 puts underage drinkers on notice that there is an offense for attempting to purchase alcohol. Mr. Staples said HB 340 is a fair bill and would not be abused.

Bill Stevens, Montana Food Distributors Association, offered a resolution prepared by the Montana Food Distributors Association. (Exhibit #1) The Montana Food Distributors Association urges the Committee to pass HB 340.

Craig Hoppe, Montana Magistrates Association, supports HB 340. Mr. Hoppe said the Magistrates Association has a moral obligation to protect the youths of the State of Montana and the citizens. Alcohol plays a big role in teenage deaths and property damage. Mr. Hoppe said supporting HB 340 would decrease that type of action. The Montana Magistrates Association supports HB 340 and recommends a DO PASS.

Opponents' Testimony:

NONE

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

Senator Blaylock asked Mr. Staples about underage individuals who receive beer from people over 21 years of age. Mr. Staples said underage individuals would still obtain beer from people over 21 years of age. Mr. Staples said that issue should be looked at and penalties for the buyer should be more serious.

Senator Halligan asked Valencia Lane about page 4, line 18 and 19. Ms. Lane said the representation would be an oral representation, supported by documentary evidence.

Senator Towe asked Mr. Staples about the language on page 4, "that an ordinary and prudent person would accept." Mr. Staples said the documentation would have to be a very good fake in order to be accepted. Mr. Staples said there are very good fake identification documents that only the Department of Revenue and law enforcement can detect. Mr. Staples said a whisk card may be put on the back of identification cards to settle the issue of a fake.

Senator Towe asked Mr. Staples about a whisk card. Mr. Staples said a whisk was a magnetic strip placed on the back of an identification card. Mr. Staples said the card would be whisked when entering a bar, or buying alcohol to ensure the age of the purchaser. Mr. Staples told the Committee that whisk cards would be virtually impossible to alter.

Senator Rye asked Mr. Stevens who pays the penalties for selling alcoholic beverages to minors. Mr. Stevens assumed the store owner would be held responsible.

Senator Rye asked Mr. Staples to answer the same question. Mr. Staples said both the store owner and the server would be held liable.

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Brown said HB 340 would provide some basis of defense for those individuals serving alcoholic beverages if they follow the requirements for receiving identification from a person. Rep. Brown asked the Committee to give HB 340 serious consideration. Rep. Brown felt HB 340 would be a step in the right direction for both parties.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 340

Motion/Vote:

Senator Rye moved HB 340 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

HEARING ON HB 187

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Halligan opened for Rep. Sheila Rice.

Proponents' Testimony:

John Melcher, Jr. read from prepared testimony. (Exhibit #2)

Opponents' Testimony:

NONE

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

Senator Bartlett asked Mr. Melcher why the last three sections of HB 187 were being struck. Mr. Melcher said the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee felt that the effective date should be October 1 to avoid being challenged. Mr. Melcher said the provision that defined "willfully obtained public assistance" was struck to prevent confusion.

Senator Rye asked Mr. Melcher if it would be considered stealing if someone lied to get welfare. Mr. Melcher said yes.

Senator Grosfield asked Mr. Melcher why section 2 was struck. Mr. Melcher said that adding "willfully" may confuse the ability to press a prosecution.

Senator Grosfield asked if striking section 2 would affect the effectiveness of HB 187. Mr. Melcher said no.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Halligan closed for Rep. Sheila Rice.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 187**Motion:**

Senator Towe moved HB 187 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion:

Senator Blaylock told the Committee that most people would not have \$1,000 for a fine. If they do not have the money, they would be thrown in jail. Senator Blaylock asked about restitution or community service as an alternative.

Senator Doherty said a sentencing alternative from fines to jail will also include community service.

Vote:

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

HEARING ON HB 405**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

Rep. Fisher, District 3, said ritual abuse of children is

occurring. HB 405 was patterned after a bill that was passed in the State of Idaho. HB 405 was reviewed at the annual meeting of county attorneys in Billings. The county attorneys supported HB 405. Ritual abuse is real. Rep. Fisher said she did not ask anyone to testify because most people are fearful for their life. Rep. Fisher read excerpts from a letter by a resident in Helena. "I am interested in the support of this bill because I am an adult survivor of severe abuse perpetrated in my youth in northwestern Montana, New York, California, and other places. Ritual abuse is so terrible that many people refuse to believe that it exists. Critics maintain that people who claim ritual abuse are attention seekers or self centered children who were sexually abused by children. It is far easier to deny ritual abuse exists. Satanic abuse occurs and continues to occur, which is beyond most peoples ability to comprehend. Rep. Fisher asked the Committee for a DO PASS recommendation.

Proponents' Testimony:

Dawn Peterson read from prepared testimony. (Exhibit #3)

Randy Mills read from prepared testimony. (Exhibit #4)

Sharon Hoff, Montana Catholic Conference, said she could not believe the abominations that are being done to children. Ms. Hoff said the church stands in full support of HB 405 and recommends it DO PASS.

Opponents' Testimony:

NONE

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

Senator Rye asked Mr. Mills if the memories of the ritual abuse started later on in his life. Mr. Mills yes. The average age of diagnosis of post traumatic syndrome, or any dissociative disorder, is 34 years of age. Mr. Mills said the memories of ritual abuse is repressed so deeply that only when a person is able to handle the memories, does it come out. Mr. Mills said he once was a very functioning person, and at the moment is functioning very well.

Senator Halligan asked Rep. Fisher about the penalties. Rep. Fisher said the penalties were patterned after the Idaho law.

Senator Halligan asked Rep. Fisher if provisions for fines, restitution, or counseling was discussed in the House Judiciary Committee. Rep. Fisher said no.

Senator Doherty asked Rep. Fisher if there had been any prosecutions in Idaho under this statute. Rep. Fisher did not know of any.

Senator Doherty asked Rep. Fisher if there were any other states that have statutes similar to HB 405. Rep. Fisher did not know.

Senator Towe asked Rep. Fisher about subsection 2, page 2, lines 5 through 8. Rep. Fisher said the language was taken out of the Idaho language. The language was put in because there are certain things that are not considered ritual abuse of minors.

Senator Towe asked Rep. Fisher if the intent was to exempt religious activities by the language on page 2, subsection 2, lines 5 through 8. Rep. Fisher said rape of children is not a religious activity.

Senator Towe asked Ms. Peterson about the people in these organizations. Ms. Peterson said her abuse took place in Bozeman. The group consisted of college kids and people from Bozeman. Ms. Peterson said the group was secretive and would threaten to kill her or her brother if she told anyone. Ms. Peterson said they did not go along with any religious sect that she knew.

Senator Towe asked Ms. Peterson if there was a religious base for the organization. Ms. Peterson said there was a lot of satanic symbols, chanting, and ceremonies.

Senator Rye asked Scott Crichton, American Civil Liberties Union, asked if HB 405 would interfere with anyone's right. Mr. Crichton said the American Civil Liberties Union does not have any testimony on HB 405.

Senator Rye asked Mr. Crichton if he felt there would be a potential for litigation if HB 405 passed. Mr. Crichton would not comment.

Senator Towe asked Rep. Fisher about the language on page 2, line 2. Rep. Fisher said ritual abusers often threaten to kill a child's pet.

Chair Yellowtail said page 2, line 2 means that they threaten the minor, or in the presence of a minor, threaten a relative, friend, or pet.

Senator Towe said page 2, line 2, may need some language reconstruction.

Senator Towe asked Rep. Fisher if there was a reason why there were no fines as part of sentencing. Rep. Fisher did not think fines were considered for this serious crime.

Senator Halligan commented on the provision about threatening a pet. Senator Halligan said to a child a pet is as human as any person. There is more trust with a pet, therefore the threat against a pet would have more impact on a child than a threat against some relative or friends. Senator Halligan said that

provision is a critical part of HB 405.

Chair Yellowtail asked Rep. Fisher if an isolated incident of threatening an animal would constitute ritual abuse. Rep. Fisher said no.

Chair Yellowtail said subsection E would allow for a child to put someone in prison for ritual abuse, even though the threat was insincere.

Senator Halligan referred to the introduction language which read, "if you knowingly or purposefully, and as part of a ceremony right or similar occurrence." Senator Halligan said that statement would clarify subsection E.

Chair Yellowtail asked Rep. Fisher if it was the intention of subsection 2 to exempt ritual abuse if it is carried on under a religious group's umbrella. Rep. Fisher said she would prefer not to have "other activities" in subsection 2. However, attorneys felt the words should be left in the statute.

Chair Yellowtail asked Rep. Fisher why the statute of limitation provision, in subsection b, would allow action to be taken only until the person is 23 years of age. Rep. Fisher did not know.

Chair Yellowtail asked if that was the intention of HB 405.

Senator Halligan said the problem with prosecuting a case, after a long period of time has taken place, is finding witnesses to put a case together. Senator Halligan said it would also be hard for names to be remembered and then to locate those individuals.

Senator Doherty said he would be interested in some type of statute of limitations language that has been done for sexual abuse. Senator Doherty suggested, "the age of majority plus a certain amount of years, or when it could be reasonably expected." Senator Doherty said that he was also interested in an amendment calling for "restitution" and "psychological counseling."

Senator Doherty asked Ms. Fisher about the definition of "ceremony, rite or other similar occurrence." Rep. Fisher said it would cover everything other than just saying ceremony or rite. Rep. Fisher said "other similar occurrences" was put in so no other type of ritual abuse would be missed, as it could be if it was attempted to list everything.

Closing by Sponsor:

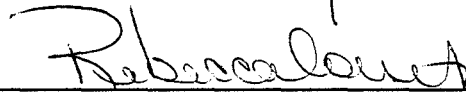
Rep. Fisher urged the Committee for a DO PASS recommendation.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:27 a.m.



BILL YELLOWTAIL, Chair



REBECCA COURT, Secretary

BY/rc

ROLL CALL

SENATE COMMITTEE Judiciary DATE 3-3-93

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Yellowtail	X		
Senator Doherty	X		
Senator Brown	X		
Senator Crippen	X		
Senator Grosfield	X		
Senator Halligan	X		
Senator Harp	X		
Senator Towe	X		
Senator Bartlett	X		
Senator Franklin	X		
Senator Blaylock	X		
Senator Rye	X		

FC8

Attach to each day's minutes

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
March 3, 1993

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Judiciary having had under consideration House Bill No. 187 (first reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that House Bill No. 187 be concurred in.

Signed: Wm Yellowtail
Senator William "Bill" Yellowtail, Chair

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Amd. Coord.
Sec. of Senate

Sen. Franklin
Senator Carrying Bill

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SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
March 3, 1993

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Judiciary having had under consideration House Bill No. 340 (first reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that House Bill No. 340 be concurred in.

Signed: Wm Yellowtail
Senator William "Bill" Yellowtail, Chair



SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
EXHIBIT NO. 1
DATE 3-3-93
BILL NO. HB340

MONTANA FOOD DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION

2700 Airport Way • P.O. Box 5775 • Helena, Montana 59604 • (406) 449-6394 • 1-800-735-1082

RESOLUTION

By the MONTANA FOOD DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION

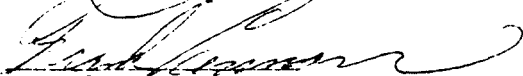
We, the undersigned, being members of the Board of Directors of the MONTANA FOOD DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION (MFDA), do hereby consent to and adopt the following course of action for and on behalf of the MFDA as a result of a vote taken during the '93 MFDA Annual Meeting at the Copper King Inn in Butte on 9 January 1993:

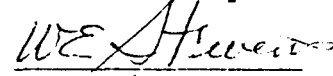
RESOLVED, that the members of the 53rd Legislative Assembly of the State of Montana pass the proposed legislation currently referred to as House Bill 340, which is sponsored by Representative Dave Brown, Democrat of Butte (District 72), and entitled as follows: "An Act Creating The Offense Of Attempt To Purchase An Intoxicating Substance; Providing A Penalty; And Amending Section 45-5-624, MCA."

RESOLVED, that the members of the 53rd Legislative Assembly of the of the State of Montana pass this legislation for the following reasons:

1. Current Montana law does not make it unlawful for a person under 21 years of age to attempt to purchase an intoxicating substance, but does make it unlawful for retailers to sell an intoxicating substance to a person under 21 years of age;
2. Under current Montana law, retailers face potential civil and criminal liability if they sell an intoxicating substance in good faith to a person under 21 years of age who provides false identification,
3. This places an unfair burden on the "good-faith" retailer, and that burden should be shared by a person under 21 years of age whose "bad-faith" attempt to purchase could result in that person's unlawful possession and consumption of an intoxicating substance.

This action is taken by unanimous consent of those members and directors present at the MFDA Annual Meeting on 9 January 1993.


Frank Cannon
Chairman


W.E. Stevens
President

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

(406) 444-5900
FAX (406) 444-5956

MARC RACICOT, GOVERNOR



STATE OF MONTANA

HANK HUDSON, DIRECTOR
JESSE MUNRO, DEPUTY DIRECTORPO BOX 8005
HELENA, MONTANA 59604-8005

March 3, 1993

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 187
"AN ACT REVISING THE LAW RELATING TO THEFT, . . ."Submitted by John Melcher, Jr.
Staff Attorney for the Department of Family Services

Section 45-6-301, MCA clearly sets out that obtaining public assistance paid under Title 53 through a false statement or a fraudulent scheme or device may be prosecuted as a theft. The statute makes no reference to public assistance provided under Title 52.

Public assistance paid under Title 52 is defined under Section 52-2-101, MCA to mean "any type of monetary or other assistance furnished under this title to a person by a state or county agency, regardless of the original source of the assistance." Specific examples of Title 52 public assistance payments are: payment for day care services of eligible families, (52-2-704, 52-2-731), payment for foster care placements, (52-2-112), adoption subsidies (52-2-507), and state supplementary payments for certain SSI recipients (52-1-104).

Prior to 1987, public assistance provided under programs currently paid under Title 52 was provided under Title 53. In 1987, 1989, and again in 1990, statutes authorizing payment of benefits for various programs were re-designated into Title 52, as part of the transfer of functions from the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to the Department of Family Services. However, the reference in the theft statute was not amended to include Title 52 public assistance. HB 187 corrects this oversight and makes it clear that wrongfully obtaining Title 52 public assistance may result in a prosecution for theft.

I am here to tell you what happened to me as a child, the bits and pieces of the horror I remember. I was not approached to testify here, yet wanted to do this because I think someone needs to break the silence of terror. My silence has been twenty long and agonizing years. Someone needs to know so others can be protected. For that, I must speak out.

When I was five I was drawn involuntarily into a cult. I was forced to drink blood and wine, eat human flesh, and participate in human and animal sacrifices. I was told to act dead while men had sex with me. I was drugged and raped with things such as broomhandles, barrels of guns I

was told were loaded, bottles, and tools, to name a few. I was raped continually by members of the cult. This occurred over a two year period I had totally dissociated, or blacked out, until last September. I am still recalling more disgusting events and will be in therapy for many years to repair the damage done to me.

This abuse has permeated my present life. In December I went for ten days without eating and was only able to drink an occasional diet cola because everything tasted and smelled like blood. I have recently been diagnosed with Multiple Personality Disorder that originates from my abuse. Because of that, I have alters, or other

EXHIBIT 3

DATE 3-3-93

HB 405

personalities, who mutilate my body by cutting and bruising it to keep the secrets of my past from leaking out. The self-mutilation is also meant to keep the emotional and physical pain from becoming too intense. I will be marked by these scars for the rest of my life.

I have been in the acute psychiatric unit of my local hospital fourteen times in the past three years. Eleven of those admissions occurred in the last twelve months. I was committed to Montana State Hospital twice in the same three year period. Last Wednesday I returned from a month of intense therapy to help me deal with my dissociation and memories,

There, I met people from around the nation who have endured the same abominable tortures I have described.

My life has been shattered. I am unable to care for my children and sometimes myself. I have attempted suicide many times and I am constantly thinking of ways to end my pain - such as suicide. I am in physical pain from body memories 24 hours a day. No medication we've tried, including morphine, has alleviated the pain. My emotional pain stems from feelings of guilt and shame. I was told the abuse was my fault. I was told my brother would be hurt. I was told my parents would be shown pictures of

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 3-3-93
HB 405

me involved in sexual acts. I was threatened with death if I told. No child deserves this agony. No adult deserves this pain. No one.

I so desperately want to get on with my life. I want to care for my family. I want to be self-sufficient. The abuse has devastated my and my family. I have seen others incapacitated by the same issues. I once thought I was alone. I am not. There are others, many who live here in Montana. This abomination needs to stop. We need help stopping this, your help. We must protect those who cannot protect themselves.

TESTIMONY OF RANDALL E. MILLS, HELENA, ON HOUSE BILL 405
BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
OF THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

EXHIBIT NO. 4

DATE 3-3-93

BILL NO. HB405

March 3, 1993

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record, my name is Randy Mills, and I'm a Helena resident who wants to urge your favorable consideration of this important bill to outlaw certain abusive cult ritual activities.

I am interested in and supportive of this bill because I am an adult survivor of severe ritual abuse, perpetrated during my youth and early adulthood in northwestern Montana, New York, California and other places.

Like many survivors of severe abuse, I have been diagnosed as having Multiple Personality Disorder, and am in my third year of intensive psychotherapy to cope with these long-standing effects of abuse.

Professionally, I am a writer and researcher, and have been a reporter or copyeditor for most of the state's newspapers and news agencies. As a result of my disorder and the traumatic level of therapy I have been undergoing, I have not worked in the last two years and am considered 100 percent disabled by the Social Security Administration. I have recently begun a trial return-to-work program.

It is sad to admit that Montana does not have strong enough criminal sanctions to cover ritual abuse, but it is even sadder to admit that ritual abuse even occurs -- and to innocent children.

In fact, the horrors of ritual abuse, especially satanic cult abuse, are so tremendous that many people simply refuse to believe that it exists. Critics maintain that claims of satanic ritual abuse are really just attention-seeking by self-centered children or fantasy-enhanced memories of sexual or physical abuse that really did happen, but not in a cult or ritual setting.

Critics also say that there are no real satanic cults in America, that they do not have any organized structure or system, and that IF they exist, they do not routinely do anything even vaguely similar to what survivors are alleging across America. And society's refusal to believe in ritual crime is easy to understand: why would anyone want to believe that this exists? Why would anyone want to believe that their neighbor might be a closet satanist who works by day and drinks blood by night? It's far, far easier to simply deny that it exists, and to dismiss the claims of survivors as fantasies or even psychosis.

Mills
page two

I am living proof that the critics are wrong. I and my fellow survivors are living proof that parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and their friends can perpetrate severe physical, sexual and satanic ritual abuse on children in their own families, as well as other children.

I am living proof that there is an organized underground satanic cult network in the United States, and that they have active "covens," "grottoes" and other groups across the country. I live under threat from these people because of my recovery of memories of the abuse, and because of my activism in the area of exposing ritual abuse and treating survivors of such abuse.

I carry a gun and other personal defense items, and I try to keep my home address and phone number from being disclosed. Nevertheless, I do not cower from these people, and I am not afraid of speaking out against the abuse they perpetrate and pass on from generation to generation. I fully expect some sort of harassment and/or retribution as the result of my activism on this topic, and I am prepared for it.

Like many survivors of ritual abuse (I personally know about 150, many from Montana), I feel an obligation to stand up against these perpetrators and to speak out on behalf of fellow survivors who are not yet strong enough or safe enough to speak out.

We all know that child abuse is far more widespread than was thought 20 years ago, or even 10 years ago. We **KNOW** that such abuse has occurred and continues to occur at an alarming pace. We also know, despite claims to the contrary, that satanic ritual abuse has occurred and continues to occur at rates beyond most peoples' ability to comprehend.

If child abuse is a gun that shoots holes in the soul, satanic ritual abuse is an atomic bomb that vaporizes and shatters the soul, fragmenting it so badly that most ritual abuse survivors have Multiple Personality Disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or any number of other dissociative disorders that serve as coping tools.

While I do not want to publicly go into the gut-churning details of the abuse that I have suffered, I'll share that the sexual, physical and ritualized abuse was so horrific that my personality has shattered into more than 100 identifiable pieces that maintain separate identities, separate realities and entirely distinct interactions with current society.

My poly-fragmented Multiple Personality Disorder is the result of abuse that would, in part, be outlawed by House Bill 405. Virtually every activity this bill proposes to criminalize was perpetrated on me by a family member and non-family members from the time of birth until my young adult years. Less-frequent forced interactions with these and other abusers continued until my early 20s.

Through my personal experience and my contacts with other survivors, I know that abusers can range from anonymous "ordinary" people to highly visible and respected community leaders, including health professionals, school teachers, law enforcement professionals, priests, business people, government employees, members of the U.S. armed forces, and members of the U.S. intelligence community. Literally anyone -- regardless of where they are on the economic, professional or social ladders -- can be involved in ritualized abuse and satanic cult abuse. And they're very good at leading "normal" daytime lives, while killing, maiming and abusing by night.

They regularly perpetrate the actions this bill would outlaw, and they focus their attention on young children who have absolutely no way to escape. They break down a child's will and trust to the point that the child truly believes that there is no way to get out and no person "safe" enough to talk to.

If the cult members begin their activities early enough in the child's life, as is often the case, the child grows up and, through the fragmenting of personalities, creates an internal psychic structure that allows the belief that "this is all there is."

They grow up not knowing that they're being abused. They grow up not knowing that it isn't normal to drink human blood still warm from the body.

They don't learn know that it isn't normal to consume the ground-up remains of human fetuses forcibly withdrawn from the womb of women used for cult "breeding" of undocumented children.

They don't learn that it isn't normal to tie a young woman to a stone "altar" and then rape her, sodomize her, skin her, disembowel her, and then, finally, kill her and thoroughly dispose of the remains.

They don't learn that most kids actually have beds instead of cages; that food is served cooked on plates, rather than raw meat thrown on the sub-basement floor; or that human and animal urine and feces are ordinarily not touched, drank, eaten, smeared on the body or injected into the body.

Mills
Page four

They grow up "knowing" that they can't tell about what has happened to them because the cult will find out. They are told -- and made to truly believe -- that eyeballs have been surgically implanted inside the body to allow the cult to track the child for the rest of his or her life. They are told -- and made to believe -- that devices have been implanted to allow the cult to see and hear if the child ever "tells." They are told -- and made to believe -- that bombs or other self-destruct devices have been implanted so that they will die if they ever "tell.

I could go on at great length describing the horrors I've seen and that fellow survivors have reported, and which I believe without question. Some of the stories would make what I've just described seem like a pleasant Sunday picnic.

I hope and believe passage of this bill will encourage people to report ritual crime -- perhaps slowly at first, but with growing frequency. I do not believe this bill will serve as a retardant to the spread of ritual abuse, especially that of organized transgenerational satanic cults. The people who perpetrate these acts are well beyond the reach of what you would consider normal human reason and emotion; a law criminalizing their activities will be meaningless to them.

I believe the bill may have some restraining effect on people who "dabble" in satanism and ritualized abuse, and perhaps even on our young people who are more and more frequently turning to satanism as a protest and a social support system. Just as ghetto children turn to gangs for some kind of "bonding" and family-like support, some of our children -- right here in Montana -- turn toward satanism as an alternative to an already rotten home life. Children who voluntarily turn toward what I call "minor" satanic activities would never touch the stuff if they were more aware of what happens to kids who have the misfortune to be born into an organized transgenerational cult.

Passing this bill would have an obvious and immediate impact on the state's ability to prosecute alleged ritual abusers. But most importantly, with proper promotion and public exposure, the bill will send a strong message to survivors that they DO have allies in their healing, and that someone somewhere DOES care.

Passage of House Bill 405 will be a strong message of support and affirmation to survivors of ritual abuse who get precious little support from a non-believing society.

I urge you to give HB 405 a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you.

DATE 3-3-93

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Judiciary

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: HR 187 - Riser - H.B. 340 - Brown
H.B. 405 Fisher

Name Representing Bill No. Check One Support Oppose

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Support	Oppose
John Melcher, Jr.	Dept. of Family Services	187	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHARON HOFF	MT CATH. CONF	405	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dawn Peterson		405	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRAIG L. HOPE	MT MAGISTRATES ASSN	340	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ann Gillery	DFS	187 405	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY