

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MONTANA STATE SENATE

APRIL 9, 1985

The meeting of the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee was called to order by Chairman, Judy Jacobson on Tuesday, April 9, 1985 in Room 325 of the State Capitol at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: All members were present. However, Senators Norman and Towe arrived late. Karen Renne, staff researcher, was also present.

There were many, many people in attendance. See attachments.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 843: Representative Cal Winslow of House District 89 in Billings, the sponsor of HB 843, gave a brief resume of the bill. This bill is an act to revise the laws relating to public assistance; providing for administration; eligibility, and benefits relating to general relief assistance provided by counties or by the state when such a program has been assumed by the state and providing an effective date.

Representative Winslow stated that this bill was discussed many times by the Committee on Human Services, and the concern was the number of people on the general assistance list and the cost associated with it. They were looking at a number of needs presented to them such as the handicapped, the elderly and some of the other low income areas. This is just one of the needs that they were looking at.

They became aware that they must show priorities and this is a bill proposed by the Department and accepted somewhat by the committee.

HB 843 eliminates the able-bodied adult male and female from cash payments from the State of Montana in both state assumed and non-assumed counties. Again, he emphasized, that it is the able-bodied, adult male and female. Those not affected are the married couple with children, individuals that are disabled, regardless of age and able bodied over age 50. The decisions of eligibility will be made by a medical review board. This system is presently in effect in the workfare programs. If they are not in general assistance, what will they receive? Even though able-bodied and under the age of 35 they would not be eligible under general assistance for cash payments, they would be eligible for the low income energy assistance, food stamps, commodities, three days of emergency service for food and shelter, medical assistance and cover treatment and other available community services.

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These people will have to explore from state to state for job possibilities, move back in with families or friends until such time as they do get a job.

This bill addresses a number of areas. Removing those under the age of 35; those able bodies between 35-49 will receive 3 months payment during any 12 months period and that is all.

Representative Winslow stated that he has a Resolution in the House facing the problem of jobs. They will be facing this in the next few years. The reality is, those that are under 35 years of age will have to look for work out of state rather than waiting around for jobs.

The bill also addresses the establishing of residency program in Montana. The benefit program offers more than some states so there has been a great number of people moving in; some from non-assumed counties moving into state assumed counties because the payment is higher. He stated that they have looked into establishing some kind of residential requirement and were told that under the Montana Constitution which calls for inhabitation in that county, it would be very difficult to do. Therefore, this bill also calls for a 60 day waiting period when moving from non-assumed to assumed counties, or from out of state.

The state Appropriations Committee also established an emergency fund of \$100,000 to address emergency needs; also \$100,000 into the legal services to make a movement from general assistance to the SSI Program. General assistance come from 100% general fund money.

He stated that it is not just \$5,000,000 that they are looking at this year, but the sum continues to grow. This program will continue to grow unless they address it.

Dave Lewis, director of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, stood in support of the bill. He stated that there is an extensive rewrite of the general assistance program. He said that through all of the hearings there has been only one controversy and that was the proposal to narrow the eligibility.

Mr. Lewis presented handout to the Committee for their consideration. See exhibits 1 and 2. This is a short summary of

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the fiscal prospective on this issue that I will be going through, he said. The narrowing down of the eligibility would be done by reducing benefits over 50 fifty years of age and eliminate those able bodied under that age of 35 years. Between the subcommittee, full committee and the House, we have had six hearings on this, he said. This will make the seventh. What they have got with the general assistance program is something that has turned into something different than it started out to be. In the beginning it was emergency assistance but it is turning into a long-term, extended program. Last year they had about 1,200 cases and now they have 2,300 cases, growth that was not anticipated, even in January when they made their proposal. The original projection has been up-dated, he said, and referred to the handout. He said they need a supplemental of three and one half million dollars for this biennium and the total budget for this biennium about six and one-half million dollars. With the proposal we are making, if it were adopted as it stands right now the budget would be about \$6.3 million for the coming biennium. If not adopted it would be \$10.9 million. It is based on the case load of 2000 filed in 1986 and 2200 in 1987. If they increase the program by the amount of case load they see this year, not the percentage, but the same case load growth, they would have about \$25 million program to bring in next session. He said that they would have to look past the shortfall of the 1987 biennium and look at the 1989 biennium. About 2300 people will be coming off of extended unemployment programs because of the loss of that program. He stated that he does not see any growth of jobs and that they have no place to go but up as far as general assistance goes. Those not affected will be anyone with dependent children in the household will be eligible for AFDC or general assistance. If they are over 50 years of age they are eligible for general assistance, and those disabled are eligible for either SSI or general assistance. Those that are eliminated from the program will still be eligible for state medical assistance and emergency assistance. There has been a controversy over the auditors' report. There seems to be a question of how many are coming in from out of state. Mr. Lewis said that when he first came into this office they sent auditors to do a quick and informal survey of the county directors to get some percentages of out-of-state. The percentage in Lewis and Clark County was 26%, 17% in Missoula and the total average the auditors made were about 13½%. The other issue is how many are going to be affected by the proposal. About 80% are under

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50 years of age. The case load is in the range group of under 35 years and able bodied. It is different than what you will see in the auditors' report.

What is available in other states? In Washington you must be incapacitated for over 60 days to be eligible for general assistance; in Idaho they have emergency needs only, basically two or three nights lodging and a bus ticket, same thing as in South Dakota. In Oregon, it is adults incapacitated for 60 days or more, in Utah the same thing. In Wyoming, no single able-bodied adults are eligible. Montana is the only program that offers so much on a long term basis to the able-bodied.

Other issues brought up are: Is this constitutional? The constitution stated that the legislature shall provide services for the aged and those suffering from misfortune. He said that he would argue that in the constitution and up until the last two years that it was not intended by the drafters of the constitution or the people of the state to provide a long-term program for able bodied adults without dependent children. Obviously, this issue will end up in court. We have to look at the problem. If we don't narrow it down there is a concern about the long-term liability of the program and said that he is not sure the taxpayers will be ready for a \$25 million dollar general assistance program in the 1989 biennium.

Another issue that came up is, can we defend limiting on an age basis. They feel that they can argue their cases on the age discrimination basis. To keep people in Montana on the idea that we will create jobs is an illusion and therefore, they must encourage people to look elsewhere for jobs.

With no further proponents, the chairman called on the opponents.

Helen Michols, representing the Butte Community Union, stated that she and her husband are receiving general assistance at this time and that they have lived in Montana since they were both born and for the past 35 years have paid taxes and does not appreciate the suggestion by Mr. Lewis that they leave. (Senator Jacobson told Mrs. Michols to direct her testimony to the Committee and not Mr. Lewis) Mrs. Nichols stated that they cannot live on food stamps and energy assistance. Their rent has to be paid. She stated that they both have elderly parents she which she and her husband's assistance. They have no intention of leaving Montana and hope to die here. Mrs. Nichols handed in written testimony for the record. See attachments, exhibit 3.

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Wayne Miller, a Helena resident and local businessman, and also president of the board of directors of God's Love, Inc. stood in opposition to the bill. He handed in written testimony for the record. See attachments and also ex. 4.

Vivian Marie, a Montana Legal Services of Great Falls, stood in opposition to the bill. She stated that she was one of the attorneys that represented the Butte Community Union in the law suite concerning the general assistance. She was a member of the economic needy team of Priority for People budget writing experiment. Through this, she stated that she has received alot of knowledge. It is clear that Montana has duties to its inhabitance to provide basic life necessities. What good is energy assistance when you do not have a home to heat. What good is food stamps, when you cannot buy and prepare the foods that will allow you to live on the thrifty food plan. HB 843 is SRS's answer to their budget problems which is a question of legality. The constitutuion refers to the aged, the infirm, and the unfortunate. The state would protect two of them with this bill. It there is not jobs here as is true in other parts of the nation, we must do something.

Ed Boyle, of the Concerned Citizens Coalition, presented written testimony in the form of a letter from Richard G. Gasvoda, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Cascade County. See exhibit 6.

Richard Carly, Jr. of Butte rose as an opponent to HB 843 stating that he is a cook and he cannot even find a job, not in Montana or any other surrounding state. He stated that he cannot afford to relocate not even in another town in Montana. Mr. Carly handed in written testimony to the secretary. See exhibit 7.

Jim Smith testified on behalf of the Montana Human Resource Development Councils Director's Association and presented written testimony shown as exhibit 8. He abbreviated his remarks to say that at the recommendation of the SRS, if HB 843 would pass the Senate, the policy that they will adopt will be of migration. They will be sending our poorest to other states to work. Lack of decency and a minimum level of subsistance will be a way of life. He asked how do you think that these people are going to be received; and remember the 6 months residency that is being established here. He stated that those that are single and male will find AFDC mothers to marry. They will adapt their life style in order to get assistance. We know that after twenty years, that the the programs to lift people out of poverty does work. For every dollar put into Headstart and early childhood development, six dollars are returned.

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In Montana, we regard these people as expendable. The poor have come to expect more of state government. HB 843 is repeating the mistakes of the past and therefore, they oppose this bill.

Lois Durand, a member of the Butte Community Union and also the Montana Low Income Coalition, state that she is here on behalf of the low income people that are on general assistance. See exhibit 9.

Mrs. Osburg of Butte testified as an opponents and stated that she is on AFDC and at one time of General assistance. she stated that they could not live on \$79 per month they could not survive.

Lula Martinez, representing the Butte Community Union, stated that she is a working mother and grandmother. She stated that she is working now but has been formerly on GA. One of the suggestions was that single children could go back to their parents. She said that she has two children and five grandchildren. She said that she was tired of raising children, but if it were necessary, could she go back to AFDC or ADC for help so she could keep them. Many parents have already gone into debt to help their children and cannot afford any more. It is not fair.

Chris Shields, stated that he has been out of work for 5 years, living in the streets and scrapping trash cans in order to survive. If you cut GA and plan to give us training who will pay for it. The \$5 million you plan on saving will have to go to train these people. I have the training of a professional dishwasher and have looked in Washington, Oregon Idaho, Montana and Hawaii. He stated that he would like to see where the jobs are. See exhibit 10.

Dale Strosch, representing the Concerned Citizens Coalition, from Great Falls testified that if you pass this bill there is no other way that I will have to live. He said that he takes medication and he does not know how he would pay for it. I work at public services jobs and if we don't do them you will have to hire someone else for more money. He also stated that under the three month assistance out of a year is fine but we have some long, cold winters and people are going to freeze to death.

Al Reed, Butte, approached the committee as an opponents and said that he wanted to know why payments are made in thirds instead of full payments under the GA.

John Flynn, concerned citizen, stated that if GA's are forced into the streets and are forced to steal in order to survive, this is not a way. I am an excellent worker when I can find work.

Dan Rubeck of Butte, representing the Butte Community Union, testified that awhile back you stated that the reason for so much welfare is because people are coming in from other states. In Butte, there is 7% out of state while in all of Montana there is between 12 and 13%. It looks like the bill is a game that they want to play. He said that if there were jobs in the other states he would go there but he does not feel he should go any place else since he was born and raised in Montana.

Chester Kinsey, member of the Montana Senior Citizens Association, testified that these are people that have up through the depression. It know how hard it is to come up with a job when you have no money. I feel that it is a moral issue. I would not object to more taxes if it keeps people from getting in this position, he said. People working for \$3.50 per hour are bound to be in trouble when winter comes.

Charles Sparks, member of the Butte Community Union, testified as an opponent of the bill stating that he has been in mining for 27 years and not all of them in Montana. I have been all over the country looking for a job and there is nothing.

Sharon Vingram, Butte Community Union, expressed her opposition to the bill.

Roanld Ell, Butte stated that he is opposed to the bill for all the forgoing reasons.

Howard Pople, of Helena stood in opposition to the bill.

David Penn of Great Falls expressed his opposition to this bill.

Carl Donovan of Great Falls, stood in opposition to the bill. See exhibit 11.

Kathy Campbell, Montana Association of Churches, testified as an opponent.

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John Ortwein, representing the Montana Catholic Conference, stated his opposition to the bill.

With no further opponents, the chairman opened the meeting to a question and answer period from the Committee.

Senator Towe asked how do we respond to these people. Do we tell them that even though they have lived here for 27 years and can't get work that they cannot live here anymore. What do we do?

Dave Lewis stated that the opponents have stated their issues quite well and we should have our minds made up. I do not see where we will have jobs in the next few years. We have the choice of keeping these people on general assistance forever or developing government paying job programs or encouraging them to get on the emergency program in order to go somewhere where there is work. If we leave them on general assistance, it will turn into a \$25 million program by the 1989 biennium, which will threaten the rest of the SRS programs. It is difficult to weigh, as it has been in the past.

Senator Towe stated that if they do somewhere else and cannot find work they will be applying for general assistance there and wouldn't that be pushing them onto someone else.

Dave Lewis stated that is why other states have abolished these programs.

Senator Towe replied, leaving the constitutional issue aside and I think there is a serious problem when we use the word "misfortunate" in the constitution, because I think the misfortune of losing the Anaconda Company employment is generally a misfortune as far as the individual is concerned. Leaving that issue aside, what do you do. Isn't one of the purposes of government to provide for those that cannot provide for themselves and want to and are trying. Don't we have an obligation as people in this society "to help".

Dave Lewis stated that in the error of the shrinking economic pie, choices have to be made and the people they serve in SRS, dependent children, foster care programs, the elderly, and etc., all those that are not able to care for themselves, that has to be the first priority.

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Senator Lynch stated that he is confused in that Mr. Lewis stated that opponents and proponent agree and he cannot see it.

Dave Lewis stated that the rewrite of the GA law has not received any opposition at any of the prior hearings. Again if you go through the long bill it is the general recodification of the law. There are some amendments that your researcher has taken a look at and some proposed amendments; our attorney has taken a look at it as well...some language amendments that affect that recodification. The heart of the bill's only change in the existing general assistance law, is the proposal to limit assistance. The rest of the bill has been supported by both sides.

Senator Lynch asked if Mr. Lewis would still want the bill if the Committee took the "guts" out of it.

Dave Lewis stated that if what are are saying is, if you have \$5 million we will spend it. We would like to have the rest of the bill even if you change it.

Senator Norman stated that he does not see any one from the Auditors' Office and he would like to know how in the survey do they decide who is transient. Are they people from out of state or are they people moving from Butte to Helena?

Mr. Lewis stated that there are two different schedules in the handout which addresses this problem. The legislative auditors say that if someone has been here for three or four months and on general assistance for two years they are counted as in state. By Missoula definition, they consider it to be 35% for out of state.

Senator Norman asked if someone should move from Missoula to Spokane for a couple of years and come back, would they be considered out-of-state?

Mr. Lewis replied that everyone has their own definition of what is out-of-state.

Senator Norman asked Mr. Lewis if he recalled when the state put nothing into county welfare? Mr. Lewis replied, "yes" they did with Grant and Aid Program.

Senator Norman asked Mr. Lewis if he remembers when the state first got into county welfare. The state managed the federal program and contributed state money to it. Do you remember when the federal government got into the program? Mr. Lewis replied that ADC came about in the 30's and AFDC came about in the 60's.

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Senator Norman stated that it isn't the program that the old county commissioners had.

Mr. Lewis stated that the AFDC is different and the general assistance program. You can look at the difference in the way the county administers the program. In December, Yellowstone County had 46 general assistance cases and you ask what the impact in Yellowstone County would be and the impact of this bill. They say "none" because they do not allow it for able-bodied. In the same month Silver Bow County had 450 cases. Again, the way that we administer it and the way it is administered under the court order is improperly so under existing law, and we have no option to provide those services but in the non-assumed counties they are not providing those services. There was some discussion in the House of turning it back to the counties but that would not solve the problem.

Senator Norman asked, do you remember the state welfare board. Mr. Lewis replied that "yes" in 1972, prior to reorganization.

Senator Norman commented that it was prior to 1972 that the state had an interest in welfare.

Mr. Lewis commented that he did not think that they had an interest in general assistance.

Senator Norman stated that welfare goes clear back to territorial days.

Mr. Lewis replied that the state from 1933 to when they set up the state relief board, however, prior to that it was a county administered program.

Senator Norman asked Mr. Lewis that with this bill people between 35 and 49 years of age will get three months out of the year, is that right. Mr. Lewis replied that able-bodied, without dependent children, will be eligible for three-months.

Senator Norman commented that he does not see by what bureaucratic rule; but why would you make him eligible at all if he did not need it and he only needs it for three months and the other nine months the state says he is eligible but we are not going to pay him.

Mr. Lewis stated that the original proposal was to cut it at age 50. The subcommittee felt that there was a need for

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that are trying to find work but there are jobs in Montana. They are scarce and maybe hard to find but they are there. Senator Ed Smith said that he advertized in five publications for a ranch hand and received 5 replies, two applications turned the job down because they did not want to move to northeastern Montana. There are jobs in my town of Havre, a town that is depressed right now also. They are jobs that people may not want to take at first, they are not the best and some are menial tasks but they are jobs. I do appreciate those here that have not been able to find work, but, I ask that you redouble your efforts and if you look in other areas within the state I feel there are jobs.

Senator Jacobson asked Mr. Lewis if there are any changes he would care to discuss in regards to proposed amendments. She stated that it is her understanding even if this Committee substantially choose to change some parts of the bill, that you would like a Statement of Intent attached to the bill to be passed.

Senator Towe stated that even if we do not go along with the idea of denying benefits of those able-bodied under the age of 35 or over 50, that we should pass the bill anyway because of the welfare reform decisions that are in it. How does this change what is in existence right now.

Representative Winslow spoke to the question by say that there are a number of provisions in the bill which we put in there to, in effect, recodify many of the administrative rules that are in place by SRS now. There are sections that explain the resources income limitations and we thought we would be in a better position if we put it in the Legislature and they had it in front of them. We set forth in the bill the income standards and benefits available to those people. If we did not do that, there would be an attempt by Butte Community Union to increase the amount that they are currently being paid under the program. Right now the general assistance payments are under the same level that is under the ADAC program. There is an attempt to raise the standard level, therefore, we thought the legislature should decide what the amount should be.

Senator Towe asked if the tables do not reflect the existing practices.

Representative Winslow said that they codify administrative rules of the department. Right now the statutes simply say that the department shall set limits and standards but does not point out what they shall be.

Senator Towe said, these are limits and standards presently in the regulations.

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a safety valve, a short term program for those between 35 and 50. "I don't know if that answers the question."

Senator Norman commented that he was afraid that it does, by state standards, it says that an able-bodied person is eligible for welfare but only 25%, but only 3 months out of the year, or only just a little bit, but we won't face up to the rest of it. That is not an emergency program that 3 months.

Mr. Lewis commented that the way the bill is stated, it say that no one under the age of 50 is eligible, however, we may provide 3 months for those between the ages of 35 and 50.

Senator Stephens stated that he has not always agreed with SRS and he believes that Mr. Lewis has been characterized as a Simon Legree and he would not agree with that assessment, and knows him to be a compassionate man.

Mr. Smith from HRDC had stated earlier that if this is passed many people will be forced into relationships that they might not get into otherwise unless it was to stay of general assistance. There really wasn't anything said by Mr. Smith about people getting off of general assistance, getting a job and returning to a life of dignity as a contributing citizen. The question is, what does the HRDC do. What are they doing to help people keep off general assistance, get a job, and get out of the welfare syndrome. Is this a fair question? He addressed the question to Cal Winslow being as no one from HRDC was in the room at the time.

Cal Winslow that the we have a number of programs; job training for teens, distribution of food by HRDC and a large range of programs to solve the problem. If you are asking to what degree do we solve the problem of the constant unemployment, I do not believe they have too many work programs available. The WIND Program for AFDC; JEPTA in the Department of Labor. There are a number of programs and that is why the resolution, to try to coordinate them because they all have their own little turfs. HRDC have different programs for the different areas.

Mr. Donovan, with the HRDC in Great Falls said that we have the weatherization that helps low income people with their weatherization. We also have the summer youth employment program. HRDC have been cut back. They are looking at the economic development of Great Falls.

Senator Stephens stated that he has great respect for those

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Representative Winslow stated that that is correct.

Senator Towe stated that the only thing that would be changed is the language on page 6, relating to those 35 years or under without dependent children and provide for those over 50 for 3 months.

That is correct with the exception of emergency assistance and the 60 day waiting period commented Representative Winslow.

Senator Towe asked if the emergency assistance is not in affect at the present time.

Representative Winslow stated that currently, they would not receive emergency assistance but a grant award, general assistance. So if those people under the age of 50 that would be cut off by this bill that would receive emergency assistance of three days rather than a full monthly grant.

Senator Towe asked if there is anyone not eligible, assuming that they do not have a job or an income.

Representative Winslow stated that these people are eligible.

Senator Jacobson stated that on page 11, line 15, it says that the county boards of public welfare may select a medical provider, is that a bidding process?

Representative Winslow stated that the reason that is in there is it basically allows us to continue doing what we are doing in Silver Bow County. It is the only place where it is being done.

Representative Winslow closed by stating that he finds himself in a difficult position. I have worked all of my life in the area of human services, and I believe that what you have before you is a way to establish priorities within the government. He wished that everyone had the responsibility to sit across the table from people in wheel chairs, elderly, and those that are taking care of the retarded and those we said "no" to that have important needs.

He stated that as he looked at those people, a priority had to be established. We had to turn many programs down, the alcohol program for indigent youth, subsidized adoption programs wanted to expand and we have to say no to them. One of the trade-offs is to pick up some of the waiting lists of the DD area and do some of the things we were able to accomplish was to recognize that there was not an unlimited number of dollars and that this welfare is not just beginning to get worse.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS: Senator Jacobson stated that the Committee will meet at a later date to take action on this bill.

ADJOURN: With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

  
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SENATOR JUDY JACOBSON  
CHAIRMAN

eg



## VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
WASNE MILLER	GOD'S LOVE INC CHARITY	843		X
<del>Theron Vingan</del>	BCU			X
Carl Gordon	Concerned Citizens Colato	843		X
Edward J. Boyle	concerned citizens colator	843		X
Val Strout	concerned citizens colator	843		X
Don Ege	Butte Community Center	843		X
Joism Durand	B.C.U. M.L.I.C.	843		X
Avian Marie	MT Legal Services	843		X
Charles Sparks	BCU	843		X
Jim Smith	HRDC Assoc.	843		+
John J. Flynn	CONCERNED CITIZENS GROUP	843		X
John D. Brown	mt Catholic Cong	843		X
Helen Nichols <sup>BCU</sup>	Butte Com. Union	843		X
Richard Cude	Butte Com. Union	843		X
Valene Phillips	Butte BCU M.L.I.C.	843		X
Helena Liebman	Butte BCU M.L.I.C.	843		X
Valene Benochi	Butte BCU	843		X
Zacharia Wapsherg	Butte BCU/M.L.I.C.	843		X
Lawrence Liebman	Butte BCU/M.L.I.C.	843		X
H. ...	Helena M.L.I.C.	843		X
Chris Shields	Helena M.L.I.C.	843		X
JUDY CARLSON	NASU, HELENA	843		X
Paul ...	...	843		X
Dave Jones	SRS	843	✓	
Jack ...	CONCERNED CITIZENS	843		X
Cathy Campbell	MT Assn of Churches	843		X



NAME: Paul Jones DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: SRS

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

REPRESENTING WHOM? \_\_\_\_\_

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU: SUPPORT? \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND? \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE? \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: Handout

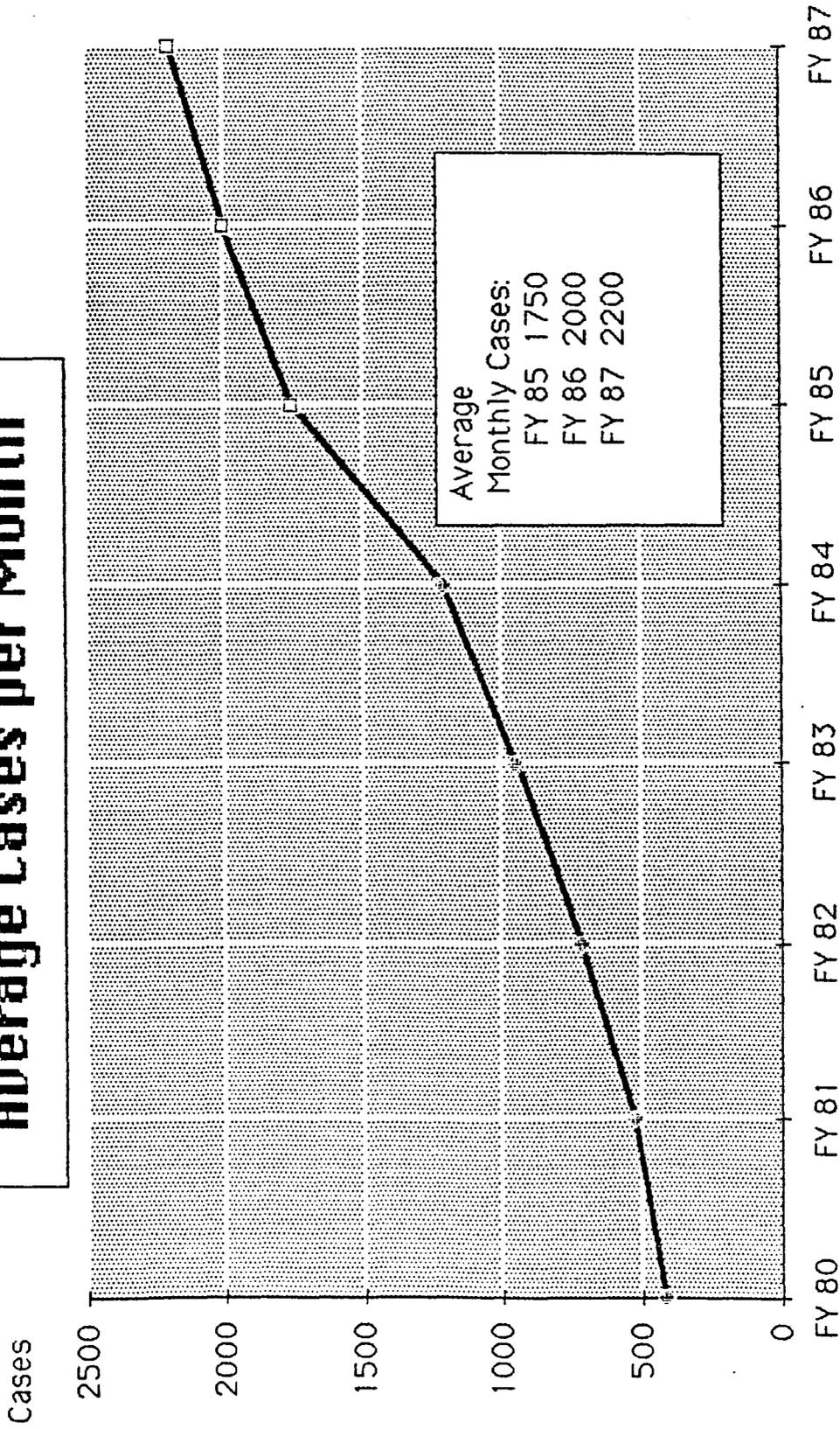
PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE COMPARISON  
with and without passage of HB843

1984-85 Biennium projected General Assistance expenditures (includes supplemental appropriation).	\$6,513,273
1986-87 Biennium projected costs assuming HB843 is enacted.	\$6,324,974
1986-87 Biennium projected costs assuming HB843 is not enacted.	\$10,916,100
Assume FY86 Caseload of 2,000 Assume FY87 Caseload of 2,200	

TB/008/2

# General Assistance Average Cases per Month



STATE OF MONTANA

## Office of the Legislative Auditor

STATE CAPITOL  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620  
406/444-3122

DEPUTY LEGISLATIVE AUDITORS:

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PERFORMANCE AUDITS

STAFF LEGAL COUNSEL

JOHN W. NORTHEY

ROBERT R. RINGWOOD  
LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

February 19, 1985

Representative Francis Bardanouve  
Chairman, House Appropriations CommitteeRepresentative Cal Winslow  
Chairman, Joint Subcommittee On Human ServicesMembers  
Joint Subcommittee on Human Services

As requested by Representative Bardanouve, we have performed an analysis of general assistance programs for a sample of ten Montana counties. The attached information summarizes the results of our analysis. Please feel free to contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Seacat  
Deputy Legislative Auditor

Reviewed and approved:

Robert R. Ringwood  
Legislative Auditor

SAG/1053  
Attachment

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR  
 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST  
ANALYSIS OF SAMPLED GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

SAMPLE SELECTION

Ten counties were selected for review. Counties were selected based upon subcommittee interest and based upon Legislative Audit staff already being available or in close proximity to the county at the time of the legislative request.

General assistance files were reviewed in each county sampled for all January 1985 general assistance recipients. A total of 1,857 general assistance files were reviewed as shown in Illustration 1.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE COUNTY SAMPLE  
JANUARY 1985 SAMPLE RECIPIENTS

<u>County</u>	<u># of Sample Recipient Files Reviewed</u>
Cascade	417
Lewis and Clark	292
Broadwater	7
Missoula	369
Ravalli	33
Silver Bow	464
Deer Lodge	146
Gallatin	16
Yellowstone	45
Flathead	68
Total	<u>1,857</u>

Source: Compiled by the Office of the Legislative Auditor

Illustration 1

RECIPIENT STATE RESIDENCY

For the ten counties reviewed, the overall percentage of January 1985 recipients who we categorized as out-of-state recipients was 18.3 percent. Statewide and individual county information is shown in the following illustrations.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE COUNTY SAMPLE  
STATE RESIDENCY

<u>Out of State?</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	247	13.301
No	1,531	82.445
Could not determine <sup>1</sup>	79	4.254
Total	1,857	100.000

<sup>1</sup> Sufficient information was not available to determine residency.

Source: Compiled by the Office of the Legislative Auditor

Illustration 2

GENERAL ASSISTANCE COUNTY SAMPLE  
STATE RESIDENCY BY COUNTY COMPARISON

<u>County</u>	<u>Out-of-State Percentage</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Available</u>
Cascade	9.35	90.65	0.00
Lewis and Clark	26.03	62.67	11.30
Broadwater	14.29	85.71	0.00
Missoula	17.34	78.59	4.07
Ravalli	9.09	81.82	9.09
Silver Bow	7.33	91.81	0.86
Deer Lodge	10.96	87.67	1.37
Gallatin	62.50 <sup>1</sup>	37.50	0.00
Yellowstone	8.89 <sup>2</sup>	86.67	4.44 <sup>2</sup>
Flathead	0.00 <sup>2</sup>	70.59	29.41 <sup>2</sup>
Overall Weighted Average	13.30	82.44	4.25

<sup>1</sup> Gallatin had only 16 cases and 6 of these received \$10.26 for gasoline.

<sup>2</sup> Sufficient information was not available to document residency.

Source: Compiled by the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

Illustration 3

AGE AND SEX OF JANUARY 1985 SAMPLED RECIPIENTSGENERAL ASSISTANCE COUNTY SAMPLE  
FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION FOR AGE

<u>Age Category</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Cumulative Percent</u>
18 to 29	761	40.980	41.142
30 to 39	446	24.017	64.997
40 to 49	326	17.555	82.553
50 or older	302	16.263	98.815
Not available	22	1.185	100.000

Source: Compiled by the Office of the Legislative Auditor

## Illustration 4

GENERAL ASSISTANCE COUNTY SAMPLE  
SEX OF JANUARY 1985 RECIPIENTS

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
F	415	22.348
M	1,442	77.652

Source: Compiled by the Office of the Legislative Auditor

## Illustration 5

COUNTY RESIDENCY

Approximately three-fourths of the January 1985 general assistance recipients that we sampled had lived in the county over one year.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE COUNTY SAMPLE  
FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION FOR COUNTY RESIDENCY  
JANUARY 1985 RECIPIENTS

<u>Length of County Residency</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Cumulative Percent</u>
Less than one month	59	3.177	3.177
One up to three months	117	6.300	9.478
Three up to six months	92	4.954	14.432
Six to twelve months	170	9.478	23.910
Over one year	1,386	74.637	98.546
Not available	27	1.454	100.000

Source: Compiled by the Office of the Legislative Auditor

Illustration 6

GENERAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS - JANUARY 1985

The overall weighted average general assistance payment for the January 1985 cases we reviewed was \$203.50. The following illustration details the average January payment for each county sampled.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE COUNTY SAMPLE  
AVERAGE GENERAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENT  
JANUARY 1985 SAMPLED PAYMENTS

<u>County</u>	<u># of Payments</u>	<u>Average January Payment</u>
Cascade	417	\$168.40
Lewis and Clark	292	220.05
Broadwater	7	249.71
Missoula	369	212.31
Ravalli	33	217.11
Silver Bow	464	213.09
Deer Lodge	146	226.62
Gallatin	16	281.27
Yellowstone	45	133.26
Flathead	68	201.51
Total	1,857	\$203.50 overall average

<sup>1</sup>Gallatin County average is skewed upward because one of the 16 recipients received a \$3,700 payment for past due house payments.

Source: Compiled by the Office of the Legislative Auditor

Illustration 7

The majority of the general assistance payments were for a combination of purposes such as utilities and rent, etc.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE COUNTY SAMPLE  
PURPOSE OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS  
 JANUARY 1985 SAMPLED PAYMENTS

<u>Funds Used for What Purpose</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Cumulative Percent</u>
Food	12	0.646	0.646
Utilities	5	0.269	1.915
Rent	121	6.516	7.431
Transportation	16	0.862	8.293
Personal Needs	33	1.777	10.070
Combination	1,505	81.045	91.115
Other	14	0.754	91.869
Not Available	151	8.131	100.000
Total	1,857	100.000	

Source: Compiled by the Office of the Legislative Auditor

Illustration 8

For the January 1985 recipients we reviewed, the majority had been receiving general assistance for less than six months.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE COUNTY SAMPLE  
DURATION OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE  
 JANUARY 1985 SAMPLED RECIPIENTS

<u>How Long on General Assistance</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Cumulative Percent</u>
Less than one month	340	18.309	18.309
One up to three months	520	28.002	46.311
Three up to six months	327	17.609	63.920
Six to twelve months	320	17.232	81.152
Over one year	339	18.255	99.408
Not available	11	0.592	100.000
Total	1,857	99.999	

Source: Compiled by the Office of the Legislative Auditor

Illustration 9

WORKFARE EXEMPTION OR DISABILITY

Our analysis included a review to determine the percentage of January 1985 sampled recipients that were categorized as either workfare exempt or disabled. Since some recipients could be considered workfare exempt and disabled, while other recipients could be workfare exempt but not disabled, the categories were combined for the analysis. (Note: Recipients were not double-counted if they were workfare exempt and disabled.)

GENERAL ASSISTANCE COUNTY SAMPLE  
ANALYSIS OF WORKFARE EXEMPTION/DISABLED  
 JANUARY 1985 SAMPLED RECIPIENTS.

<u>Workfare Exempt or Disabled</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	426	23.048
No	1,405	75.660
Not Available	24	1.292
Total	1,857	100.000

Source: Compiled by the Office of the Legislative Auditor

Illustration 10

We noted that workfare exempt/disabled percentages varied from county to county as can be seen in the following illustration.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE COUNTY SAMPLE  
COUNTY COMPARISON  
PERCENT WORKFARE EXEMPT OR DISABLED

<u>County</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Available</u>
Cascade	27.58	72.42	0.00
Lewis and Clark	29.45	69.18	1.37
Broadwater	42.86	57.14	0.00
Missoula	29.54	68.02	2.44
Ravalli	54.55	42.42	3.03
Silver Bow	3.02	95.91	1.08
Deer Lodge	19.18	80.82	0.00
Gallatin	81.25	18.75	0.00
Yellowstone	64.44	33.33	2.22
Flathead	19.12	75.00	5.88
Overall Weighted Average	23.05	75.66	1.29

Source: Compiled by the Office of the Legislative Auditor

Illustration 11

OTHER STATES

We were also requested to contact other states surrounding Montana to obtain information concerning "general assistance" in those states. The following chart summarizes the information.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE COUNTY SAMPLE  
GENERAL ASSISTANCE SURVEY

<u>State</u>	<u>Program Administered By: State/County</u>	<u>Payment Limitations</u>	<u>Residency Requirements</u>	<u>Special Requirements</u>
Washington	State	\$304-1 person \$385-2 persons	Identifiable residence	To adults incapacitated for 60 days or more
Idaho	County	Varies <sup>1</sup>	None	Emergency needs only
South Dakota	County (2 - counties)	Varies <sup>1</sup>	None	Emergency needs only
North Dakota	County	Varies <sup>1</sup>	None	Varies <sup>1</sup>
Colorado	County (43 of 63 counties)	Varies <sup>1</sup>	Resident of county	Emergency needs to families eligible for AFDC
Oregon	State	\$223-1 person \$294-2 persons	Identifiable residence	Adults incapacitated for 60 days or more
Utah	State	AFDC Standard	Identifiable residence	Incapacitated/unemployable adults
Wyoming	State	\$145-1 person \$285-2 persons	None	Assistance maximum of 120 days in any 12 month period

*no able bodied singles*

Transients limited to mileage to first city out of state

<sup>1</sup> Depends upon county

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE

At the request of the Joint Subcommittee Chairman, we compiled a number of cross-tabulations between variables. For example, information is available to compare age category percentages with whether or not a recipient is workfare exempt/disabled as shown in the illustration below.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE COUNTY SAMPLE  
COMPARISON OF AGE CATEGORY BY WORKFARE EXEMPTION  
 JANUARY 1985 SAMPLED RECIPIENTS

<u>Age Category</u>	<u>Percent Workfare Exempt or Disabled</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Available</u>
18 to 29	19.45%	79.76%	0.79%
30 to 39	19.73%	78.92%	1.35%
40 to 49	25.77%	73.31%	0.92%
50 or older	<u>35.10%</u>	<u>63.25%</u>	<u>1.66%</u>
Overall Weighted Average Percent	23.05%	75.66%	1.29%

Source: Compiled by the Office of the Legislative Auditor

Illustration 13

We will be glad to provide additional cross-tabulations to subcommittee members and other legislators upon request.

NAME: Helen Nicholls DATE: 4/9/85

ADDRESS: 2527 Moulton

PHONE: 782-0064

REPRESENTING WHOM? Butte Community Union

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 843

DO YOU: SUPPORT? \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND? \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE? oppose

COMMENTS: Receiving S.A. at this time. Only  
source of LIFE, such as it is.  
No S.A., No LIFE, I DIE!

Helen Nicholls

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

My name is Wayne Miller. I am a Helena businessman and a lifelong resident of Montana. I am also the president of the board of directors of God's Love, Incorporated. This is a non-profit private charity serving the most desperately poor in the Helena area. I am very concerned about the proposed changes in the general assistance laws. These changes, if enacted, would have a profoundly negative impact on the lives of poor people in Montana, and on private charities as well.

The House, endorsing these changes, has argued that the younger able-bodied poor are most able to find jobs and therefore do not need general assistance. This argument assumes that there are jobs available for those who want them. Our experience indicates that this is not the case. We regularly see young, able-bodied, energetic people who are destitute because there are no jobs. America's industrial and agricultural base is deteriorating rapidly. Every year hundreds of thousands of laborer jobs are eliminated, as men are replaced forever with machines.

House members have also argued that the general assistance program is not as important as other programs for which funds have been allocated. I am upset by this argument because of the consequences of the proposed changes. If they are carried out, an estimated 1,000-1,200 people will lose their GA benefits. Those receiving benefits are, by definition, already destitute--so poor that they often must make difficult choices about how to spend their limited funds. Many poor people eat their meals at God's Love transient shelter because they do not have enough money at the end of the month.

General assistance recipients are usually members of our community. What are we to do with them? Turn them out into the streets? If we deny them benefits, most will lose their homes. Many will join the ranks of the transient homeless--an increasing problem nationwide.

As caring Montanans, we must maintain this vital program. To deny these benefits would be to place hundreds of already destitute people in a life-threatening situation. I am appalled that the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services has so enthusiastically endorsed this bill. I worked at SRS for nine years, as a child welfare worker, staff trainer, and director of the division of Statistics and Research. During those nine years, I never questioned the SRS mandate to provide vital, basic services to the poor. The actions of the current director of SRS, barely three months in office, and with no prior experience in meeting basic human needs, fly in the face of everything that SRS has been mandated to do since its inception fifty years ago.

Not only will the proposed changes impact the poorest of the poor, they will adversely affect the private charities in the state. Presently many private and public charitable agencies benefit from the free help provided through the work relief program, commonly called workfare, in which GA recipients are required to participate. At God's Love shelter we utilize many GA recipients who provide hundreds of hours of quality work at no cost. The workers are responsible, energetic, and valuable additions to our staff. Many continue to work after their shift has been completed. If we were to lose their services it would severely impact the functions of the shelter.

Apparently many individuals believe that if GA is abolished, that private charities will step in to fill the void. This is wishful thinking. Because of the social service cutbacks already enacted by the Reagan administration, with many more certain to come, God's Love and other private charities are already strained to the limit. If you choose to cut benefits to GA recipients, we will see an enormous increase placed on private charities for basics such as food, shelter, utility bills, and clothing. Yet these charities are unable to meet the needs of all those who now ask for help. At God's Love we spend nearly \$300,000 each year, and are just beginning to help those in need. How can we be expected to deal with the massive influx of those cut off from GA?

If you cannot agree on how and where to cut spending, why not raise taxes? Last year I personally paid out over \$140,000 in state and federal income taxes. I would gladly pay more taxes if it would insure these people the basic necessities of life.

In the Gospel of Matthew we are asked to feed the hungry, to shelter the homeless, and to clothe the naked. I am asking you now to listen to God's word. Please do not pass this terrible bill.

(This sheet to be used by those testifying on a bill.)

425

NAME: VIVIAN MARIE DATE: 4-9-85

ADDRESS: 3 6<sup>th</sup> ST N #407 Great Falls

PHONE: 453-6589

REPRESENTING WHOM? MT Legal Services

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HR 843

DO YOU: SUPPORT?  AMEND?  OPPOSE?

COMMENT:

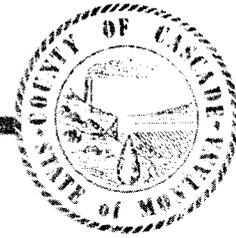
Multiple horizontal lines for writing comments.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

# Cascade County

State of Montana

TELEPHONE: (406) 761-6700



Great Falls, Montana 59401

April 9, 1985

Dear Legislators:

I write this letter to express my grave concern over the fiscal impact of HB 843 on Cascade County and, specifically, the minimum of 150 citizens who would be drastically affected by passage and implementation of the proposed legislation.

At a meeting in the Commissioners' office on March 18, 1985, over 25 people, representing a dozen different human service providers, discussed the roles each could assume and what amount of additional help could be expected from each of them. Our unanimous conclusion was simply that we were totally unable to address the basic needs of the numbers of people who would be removed from General Assistance. There would be no "safety net" for the majority of these people.

I must remind you that legislative action, though it can remove financial liability, does not remove the needs of the people affected.

Please believe and consider these facts when you vote on HE 843. Your "no" vote will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Gasvoda, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

jc



NAME: Richard H. Carly, Jr. DATE: 4/9/85

ADDRESS: 107 W. Quartz, #15 Butte, Montana 59701

PHONE: 782-4983

REPRESENTING WHOM? Butte Community Union

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HB 843

DO YOU: SUPPORT?  AMEND?  OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: I am a resident of this state and have  
been seeking work and have found nothing from  
Billings to Missoula. I have been in surrounding states  
also. We are in a very ~~slow~~ <sup>depressed</sup> economy and ~~believe~~ <sup>I believe</sup>  
that if you pass HB 843 your problems will have only  
begun. There should be serious consideration on passing  
this bill because you are dealing with people not  
numbers or statistics.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

April 9, 1985

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Public Health, Safety and Welfare: HB 843, the General Assistance Bill.

Presented by the Montana Human Resource Development Councils Directors Association.

Madame Chairwoman, and members of the Committee. I rise before you in opposition to HB 843 in its current form. Basically, I would recommend amending HB 843 by deleting those sections that exclude able bodied single persons, or childless couples under the age of 35 from eligibility for General Assistance; and also those sections that limit assistance for those between 35 and 50 years of age to three (3) out of any twelve (12) months.

Madame Chairwoman, at the very least the long and often heated debate over this piece of legislation has been educational. Testimony and analysis in the House of Representatives should, if nothing else, have served to destroy many of the prevalent myths about the poor in Montana and about poverty in this state during the mid-1980s.

For example, the comfortable myth that the poor are recent arrivals from out of state seeking to cash in on Montana's liberal welfare program has been effectively put to rest. We know now that people on General Assistance are, by and large, our our citizens: born and reared here in the state. The best evidence before the legislature shows that only 13% of the caseload are recent arrivals to the county of application. What migration there is can be attributed, in large part, to a migration from Montana's rural counties to the urban centers of the state.

Second, the myth that says the poor are lazy and unwilling to work has also been refuted through the body of testimony received by the House. The record will show that almost without exception that these people are able and willing to work for the assistance they receive. County workfare programs have been operating successfully in Montana since the workfare program was initiated in 1981. The poor participate willingly in these programs. Elimination of General Assistance will mean the effective elimination of a work

Third, the myth that General Assistance clients spend their entire life receiving public assistance has also been refuted. The record will show that the vast majority of GA recipients are only on the program for a period of one to three months.

With the false, but comforting myths dispelled, it is time that the state of Montana, through its elected representatives, begin to take a serious and realistic look at the problems and conditions of poverty in this state.

What you will see is that we are preparing to simply throw on the waste pile anywhere from 1200 to 1500 needy citizens of this state; citizens who are willing to work, and who generally need assistance for only a short, two to four month period, time out of any given year.

If the recommendations of the department of SRS are adopted, and if HB 843 passes the Senate the policy we will have consciously adopted will be one of out-migration, a modern day Diaspora for the poor of Montana. We will willingly be sending our poorest citizens to other states in search for work, decency and a minimum level of subsistence. Please contemplate for a moment the reception with which the poor of Montana will be greeted in Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, or the Dakotas. Please recall SRS's original proposal to establish a six month residency requirement here; and then speculate on the chances for survival the poor of Montana will have in neighboring states.

Far more likely, in my view, is the possibility that GA recipients who are single and male will find an AFDC mother to marry; and that couples who are childless will waste no time in having children.

My guess is that most of the poor here in Montana will politely decline their one-way ticket to anywhere, and will instead adapt their lifestyle to enable them to be eligible for other forms of assistance.

What is most sadly lacking in all of this is that there is absolutely no Human Investment Strategy associated with this entire debate. We know now, after twenty years of research and evaluation, that programs aimed at lifting people out of poverty can and do work.

Senator Ernest Hollings (D-SC), who is no big spending liberal in anyone's book recently reported on finding regarding certain human development programs. We know now that for every dollar the federal government spends on Head Start and early childhood development, that six dollars are returned to the treasury in the form of taxes. For every dollar we spend on the program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), a total of three dollars is returned. Vocational Rehabilitation returns four dollars to the government for every dollar invested.

The real tragedy here is that this kind of mentality and attitude has not been even seriously considered in the debate on HB 843. Here in Montana, we seem to regard these people as marginal, as expendable. As they become more expensive to serve the margin diminishes, and they become more expendable. Rather than even attempt a strategy of investment in these people, we design punitive laws, and tell them to take to the highways, or to the rails.

We could be doing better than this if the will to do so was present. Poor people in this state, and all citizens in Montana have come to expect better from state government.

Speaking for the ten HRDCs in this state, let me tell you that we have a real tragedy in the making here. A most punitive and expedient law has been proposed. We are preparing to repeat the worst mistakes of the past in HB 843. In addition, it is doubtful that HB 843 will even accomplish its stated goal of reducing expenditures for public assistance. People will not willingly starve or go homeless. Other forms of assistance will be sought and found: in the AFDC caseload, in crime and in institutionalization.

We have opposed this bill as originally proposed in the sub-committee, as amended and heard before the full House Appropriations Committee. We oppose it now before the Senate Committee on Public Health, Safety and Welfare. I've often thought that this is a rather long and cumbersome title for a committee of the Montana Senate; but I see now that the name really is appropriate. Your decision on HB 843 will have profound effects on the Health, Safety and Welfare of people in Montana. We urge you to decide on the basis of those factors: public health, safety and welfare. We urge the defeat of HB 843.

NAME: Rois M. Russell DATE: 4/9-85

ADDRESS: 211 7th Idaho, Butte, Montana 59701

PHONE: 782-5537

REPRESENTING WHOM? Butte Community Union & M.I.C.

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: On H.B. 843 appeal

DO YOU: SUPPORT? \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND? \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE? X

COMMENTS: I have written testimony to testify on the behalf of low income people that are on G.I.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

24-9

Testimony of Lois Durand, Member of Butte Community Union and Montana Low  
Income Coalition

---

This bill would eliminate GA for people under 35, and after three months, for those 35 to 50.

People who are able-bodied can't go out and find jobs, because there are no jobs to be gotten. Why do you think they work on workfare for their general assistance? These people have to live like everyone else.

If this goes into effect, they will be denied of their rights. The purpose of general assistance is to help our people through their difficulties, and to help alleviate poverty. These cuts in GA would eliminate assistance to the poorest of the poor.

I hope human concerns will take precedence in this issue. Thank you.

NAME: Chris Smith DATE: 4-9-85

ADDRESS: 3146 HICKMAN

PHONE: 442-2394

REPRESENTING WHOM? HELENA MHC

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: G.A. 843

DO YOU: SUPPORT? \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND? \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE? X

COMMENTS: WHAT DO YOU OPPOSE TO HAVE THE  
people if you take them off and plan  
to train them who is going to pay for  
the training

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: CARL J DONOVAN DATE: 4-9-85

ADDRESS: Box 1201 GT. FALLS, MT 59403

PHONE: 453-6786

REPRESENTING WHOM? ecc - self - ~~ppa~~ people

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HB 843

DO YOU: SUPPORT? \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND? \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE? ✓

COMMENT: In the St. Falls area in the last 2 months over 30 businesses have gone out of business. Many of these were ~~minim~~ <sup>minim</sup> paying jobs. This could be one reason for 35 & under adding to the D.H. burden. Also with in the past month, 2 people have been gunned down in St. Falls. One a former legislator was gunned down at 9:00 AM. in broad daylight. If people become desperate they will kill or steal to eat & satisfy basic human needs

One other question, would any one of you Committee men be able to have 1 or 2 people move in with your established family? Please defeat this bill.

Thank you

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

P.S. HRDC's are often an alternative to welfare. They in Gr Falls monitor emergency ~~monies~~ <sup>monies</sup> from the United Way Fund. We also run the Head Start program, Commodities, summer youth employment. Often the Staff of HRDC's use or as low-income. Also have Community Development & Economi Development

NAME: Luska Wassberg DATE: April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1985

ADDRESS: 3801 WARREN Butte

PHONE: 494-3392

REPRESENTING WHOM? Myself and BCU.

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 843

DO YOU: SUPPORT?            AMEND?            OPPOSE? X

COMMENTS: I'm on AFDC now but at  
one time I was on G.A. When my  
family and I was on G.A. we could  
not live on \$7900 a month. If you cut  
G.A. how are people to live. If it was  
me I would have to start to survive  
reliably with no job to be found.  
Luska Wassberg

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

(This sheet to be used by those testifying on a bill.)

NAME: HAWK Lindberg DATE: 4-9-85

ADDRESS: 308 PARKDALE

PHONE: 452-3968

REPRESENTING WHOM? President CCC of Great Falls Mont.

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: H.B. 843

DO YOU: SUPPORT? \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND? \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE? X

COMMENT: Y.A. is a work program, no one is  
given a free hand out, time & hours are  
put in. So lets get real sk? alot of money  
and time is being wasted trying to get people  
who already are working to go out and  
work. I think I know alot of time & money  
is wasted in America and its ashame  
that its being wasted in montana. So  
why dont we just keep the work program, we  
will keep working, you the people in the  
capital will work at the end of the day  
we will all go home and enjoy a good  
meal ok?? Lets get real.

Hawk Lindberg Great Falls Pres  
CCC

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Dale R Stroschein

DATE: 9 April 1984

ADDRESS: 402 1/2 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave to Great Falls road

PHONE: None I can't afford one.

REPRESENTING WHOM? Concerned Citizens Coalition

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: On HB 843 opposed.

DO YOU: SUPPORT? \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND? \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: As the bill is know it would stop the only way I have to live.

I take medication every day for as long as I live how will I get it.

~~The work~~ <sup>money</sup> I get is it a hand out from the state I work at public services job that someone would have to do at more money than I am payed.

~~Ask you to vote no on HB 843~~

If the bill is passed I would only get 3 mos a year the cold weather last longer than that.

I ask you to vote no on HB 843

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.





## STATEMENT OF INTENT

A statement of intent is necessary for this bill because section 19 grants rulemaking authority to the department of social and rehabilitation services. The department may adopt rules necessary to effectuate this act and rules making the on-going administration of the general relief program more efficient, including the adoption of federally assisted public assistance program methodology. If the amount appropriated for this program appears to be insufficient the department shall make rules to limit expenditures to the amount of the appropriation. The department is prohibited from interfering with the rights of non state assumed counties to determine eligibility, types of services and amounts of assistance available to indigents which is not inconsistent with this act. This grant of rulemaking authority is in addition to any existing authority of the department to make rules on the subject of the provisions of this act.