

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY

Call to Order: By Senator Dorothy Eck, on January 22, 1993, at
1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Dorothy Eck, Chair (D)
Sen. Eve Franklin, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Chris Christiaens (D)
Sen. Tom Hager (R)
Sen. Terry Klampe (D)
Sen. Kenneth Mesaros (R)
Sen. David Rye (R)
Sen. Tom Towe (D)

Members Excused: Senator Tom Hager

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Susan Fox, Legislative Council
Laura Turman, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: SB 187, HB 18
Executive Action: None.

HEARING ON HB 18

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Royal Johnson, House District 88, Billings, said HB 18 is a "no teeth" bill, but the important thing about this bill is that the Family Policy Act is a statement of purpose, "a map", for the delivery system for the state of Montana and for the agencies in Montana and the user of the system. This bill comes from the Joint Interim Committee on Children and Families. He called the Committee's attention to the high costs (about 16 million dollars annually) associated with removing children from their homes and placing them in foster homes, and how prevention programs "can substantially contribute to family health and stability" to prevent future governmental costs. He requested that the Committee not add many amendments because he said it was

difficult to get HB 18 through the House.

Proponents' Testimony:

Richard Kurstein, representing the Department of Family Services, said the Family Policy Act is a "map" that the Department would be willing to follow because it supports Montana families.

Jeanne Kemmis, Montana Council for Families, said the Family Policy Act is the "vision statement", and the Coordinating Council on Prevention (SB 34) is the structure chosen to implement the Act. She said it is important to direct services towards strengthening and supporting families because the existing services and public policy are now outdated. During the past ten years, the number of families "buckling" has increased, and there is an increase in the number of children taken from their homes and placed in foster homes. The cost of this has doubled in five years. Ms. Kemmis said there is an implicit law which states that when a family fails, the state will intervene, and children will be removed from the home. This policy is "anti-family" because Montana families have to fail first before they can receive assistance. Therefore, she said, it is necessary to have a written policy, and HB 18 has a straight forward goal of supporting families.

Sharon Hoff, Executive Director of the Montana Catholic Conference, said the U.S. Catholic Bishops wrote a document called "Putting Children and Families First". (Exhibit #1) She said the Conference supports legislation which strengthens families.

Nancy Coopersmith, Office of Public Instruction, said Superintendent Nancy Keenan supports HB 18. Ms. Coopersmith said that it is their goal that children come to school, ready to learn. HB 18 is a policy base upon which they can build policies that supports children and families.

Jeanne-marie Fiumefreddo, student, University of Montana, provided written testimony. (Exhibit #2)

Judith Carlson, Montana Association of Social Workers, said social workers are in the front line of removing children and breaking up families. She said there are few resources available for programs designed to keep families together. HB 18 would be a guide for departments and appropriations deliberations for putting money into family-based programs.

Paulette Kohman, Executive Director of the Montana Council of Maternal and Child Health, said the Council supports HB 18 because it compliance with their concerns for prevention and early intervention.

Joan-Nell Macfadden, Chairman of the Youth Services Advisory

Council, Co-Chair of the Mental Health Association of Montana Children's Committee, said she is testifying before the Committee on her own behalf. She said she has attended most of the meetings that have to do with developing a Family Policy Act for the state of Montana, and she feels that HB 18 provides a coherent guide for councils, advocates and professionals to work together.

Ed Hall, Administrator of the Board of Crime Control, said the Board supports HB 18. Mr. Hall said a mission statement does a lot to guide bureaucracies to reach their goals.

Joy McGrath, Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of Montana, said the Association has not taken a formal position on HB 18, but it is extremely consistent with the laws by which they gauge intervention and prevention services.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

Sen. Christiaens asked Jeanne Kemmis about parent aids working in Montana, and what they do. Jeanne Kemmis said there are some prevention activities in Montana which have come from non-profit organizations, and some private money is raised. These are "shoe string organizations and programs." Ms. Kemmis said she was aware of programs in Billings and Kalispell which train volunteers to become parent aids for high risk families. The problem with this is it takes money to supervise the volunteers. She said Hawaii has a program similar to this which has proven a 96% success rate with high risk families.

Sen. Towe said he was impressed with the language in HB 18 stating that how important and how cost effective it is to keep children in the home, but the conclusion of the amendment on Page 5 makes it sound like that language cannot be used when it comes to removing a child from the home. Rep. Johnson said that was not his interpretation. Rep. Johnson said they didn't want to create problems, and it doesn't take away any of the previously stated goals.

Sen. Towe asked Rep. Royal Johnson if the goals were good, sound ones, why would they affect the custody of the child. Sen. Towe asked Rep. Johnson if the language was "just rhetoric". Sen. Royal Johnson said he wants to get HB 18 passed through the Senate the way it is. Rep. Johnson said if it needs to be changed in the future, that is fine with him.

Richard Kurstein said the support of the Family Policy Act is supported because it is a reference point. It is important that

this direction, the support of families, is supported by the legislature.

Sen. Towe said his concern were Lines 17, 18, and 19, and not the amendment, because if a child is taken from the home, these lines may tell the judge to ignore the language in the code stating how important it is to keep families together. Sen. Towe asked Richard Kurstein if he were uncomfortable with the removal of Lines 17, 18, and 19.

Richard Kurstein said he didn't follow the question.

Chairman Eck said there is concern among social workers that a lot of funds are going towards prevention programs, but their primary charge is to protect the child. Chairman Eck said the Department has a lot of authority regarding the protection of the child by removing it from the home. The concern may be that language will keep the Department of Family Services from ever taking a child from the home. There are difficult legal problems if a child is not removed from the home and suffers harm. Chairman Eck said she thought this is what the language intended to do.

Sen. Towe said he is suggesting if a child is removed from the family based on an existing statute, and the family says that is wrong. Sen. Towe said he would like to site the statements in HB 18 about how important it is to keep a child in the family. If not, are these serious statements?

Richard Kurstein said it was not his impression the Family Policy Act would limit one's ability to reference that language.

Sen. Towe said that is exactly what is said in HB 18. Mr. Kurstein said that was not the intent, and the Department would have no problem with referencing of the Family Policy Act. Family support should be a primary option over removal of a child.

Jeanne Kemmis said she has heard reports that one half to two thirds of foster children do not need to be in foster homes. The problem is that money is available for children who are placed into foster homes, but not available for other alternatives. Ms. Kemmis said HB 18 is the beginning of a reform, so that money will be available for home visitation services for high risk parents and intensive family based services to keep families together. HB 18 sets the policy saying that services need to be developed.

Sen. Towe asked Jeanne Kemmis if the language in question served a purpose. Ms. Kemmis said the language has the purpose of avoiding the circumstance of the State becoming responsible for providing services that do not exist yet.

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Royal Johnson called Sen. Towe's attention to Page 7, Line 2 of HB 18. He said a range of services should be available to children and their families. Rep. Johnson said he hoped that the Committee would not change HB 18.

HEARING ON SB 187

Chairman Eck turned the Chair over to Sen. Eve Franklin.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Sen. Dorothy Eck, Senate District 40, said SB 187 comes from a request from the Department of Family Services. When the Department was formed, it inherited a Youth Advisory Council which had been a part of the Juvenile Justice System. The concerns of the Council centered primarily around detention of youth. County Commissioners had concerns about the direction of the Department, so five regional advisory boards were set up. However, there was no link between the regional councils and the state council. SB 187 is the Department's recommendation for an advisory council for the Board of Family Services.

Proponents' Testimony:

Joan-Nell Macfadden, Chair of the Youth Services Advisory Council, said SB 187 seeks to rename the Council to become the State Family Services Council, to broaden the Council's role to include an advocacy function, to broaden the Council's representation by including the five chairs of the local family services councils, requiring the Governor to appoint individuals with knowledge and experience in particular areas, and including the presiding officers of the Legislative Committees of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services and Aging, the Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Public Health Chair. The Department of Family Services is seeking to be stable and consistent. The local councils will go from seven to thirteen members to include more variety.

Richard Kurstein, Department of Family Services, said SB 187 places in statute the State Family Services Advisory Council to insure permanency for regional and local councils to the Department. SB 187 lists Native American issues as one area of knowledge members must have. He said the Department would like to offer an amendment, on Page 6, adding under "areas of knowledge", "knowledge of emotionally disturbed youth" which had been removed.

Joy McGrath, Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of Montana, said the Association supports SB 187 because there is a strong need for a coordinated planning effort from the local

level on up for children, youth and family issues across Montana. The Association supports the amendment mentioned by Richard Kurstein, including the same knowledge of "emotionally disturbed youth" on Page 7 for "local councils."

Paulette Kohman, Executive Director of the Montana Council for Maternal and Child Health, said it was her concern that the Department had the input of health care professionals in the decision making processes. She said, based upon her experience as a member of a regional advisory council, the communication between regional youth services advisory boards and regional administrators and the central administration and the central advisory board lead to significant improvement of the morale and the direction of the Department.

Jeanne Kemmis, representing herself, said it is important for the Legislature to know that the Department of Family Services is not doing well, "paralysed" at the staff level. Ms. Kemmis said groups operating under extreme financial deprivation result in internal conflict, so it's important to at least create mechanisms for communication.

Opponents' Testimony:

Jim Smith, representing the Montana Association of Homes and Services for Children, said this Association covers a range of providers for out of home care for children who have been removed from their homes. Mr. Smith said he is a "reluctant opponent." He said the Association heard about SB 187 during its drafting stages, and it was the understanding that the legislation would expand membership to the local councils from seven to thirteen. Mr. Smith said the interests he represents are no longer eligible to serve on the state council or the local council if SB 187 is passed as is. The pool from which the Governor can appoint members has gotten smaller rather than bigger. He pointed out the stricken language on Page 7 of SB 187. His concerns are that all the areas of concern at the local level will not be brought to the state level.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

Sen. Klampe asked for a description of the hierarchy of the councils in question. Richard Kurstein drew a diagram of the organization of the Department of Family Services.

Sen. Eck asked Richard Kurstein to explain the difference between the State Youth Council and the new State Family Services Council. Mr. Kurstein said it is a name change.

Sen. Klampe asked Mr. Kurstein who is paid and how much, and whether SB 187 will add to the budget. Mr. Kurstein said there is no payment for serving on any of the advisory councils.

Travel expenses are reimbursed. Regarding a budget expansion, there may be added costs for the state council meetings.

Sen. Klampe asked Mr. Kurstein if there would be a net increase in the number of people. Mr. Kurstein said there will not be a net increase because of consolidation of councils. There could be fewer people serving.

Sen. Towe asked Mr. Kurstein if the Governor was obligated to appoint a council member from each of the regional councils. Mr. Kurstein said the director of each local council will serve on the state council.

Sen. Towe said it is currently not a requirement, but it will be a requirement. Mr. Kurstein said that was correct.

Sen. Towe asked Mr. Kurstein what the anticipated size of the state council is. Mr. Kurstein said it would be close to 13 members.

Sen. Christiaens told Jim Smith that he was disturbed when providers were not included in board members, and he asked Mr. Kurstein why these groups were excluded. Jim Smith said that councils should be broadly representative to work well, and he feels that the residential providers are seen as the "bad guys because they pull children from their homes and spend the state's money." He feels that the language should be broad and inclusive.

Richard Kurstein said it was not the intention that providers of services should be precluded. He said the language is more inclusive because groups such as a "youth care residential provider" are not specifically named.

Joan-Nell Macfadden said the hope is to have four meetings per year. She hopes that \$12,000 will be allocated for these meetings. Ms. Macfadden said she would like the membership expanded as much as possible, but the more people included, the more expensive it becomes. She feels that the subjects in SB 187 are inclusive, not exclusive.

Chairman Franklin asked Jim Smith if he had a response to Mr. Kurstein and Ms. Macfadden's comments that the groups are not exclusive. Jim Smith said he didn't interpret SB 187 that way, otherwise he would not be here opposing it. Mr. Smith said he has a valid reason for concern because of the language on Page 7 that members "may not be employed by or under contract to the Department (of Family Services) or the youth court," and every group that he represents is under contract.

Sen. Towe asked about the language which Jim Smith just pointed out. Sen. Towe said that is existing language, and asked how foster care providers, juvenile care providers and probation officers could be included if that is existing law.

Sen. Eck said the district court judge does not make the appointments because it was difficult to get him to make the appointments. At the local level it is difficult to find people to serve who are really involved. She said there is some good input from those representing providers. She suggested that Jim Smith and Senator Towe get together to work out Mr. Smith's concerns.

Sen. Towe asked Sen. Eck whether she thought providers should be on the council. Sen. Eck said she would not object to adding another category for providers to SB 187.

Sen. Towe asked Sen. Eck if the prohibition could be taken out. Sen. Eck said there might be difficulty if most of the council were made up of providers.

Sen. Towe asked Richard Kurstein if there were a valid reason for excluding providers. Mr. Kurstein said the role of the local councils has been unclear, but the intent for the local councils was not a prohibition from serving on the state council.

Sen. Towe asked Jim Smith about the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, and whether that Council handled correctional issues and whether there was overlap if individuals "with knowledge" in that area were included.

Jim Smith said he wasn't familiar with the workings of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, but there is a lot of overlap between the Department of Family Services and the Juvenile Probation System. Mr. Smith feels there should be some shared representation on the DFS councils.

Candy Wimmer, Board of Crime Control, said the corrections issue is being dealt with through the State Council for Family Services because they are currently responsible for the corrections administration. It is critical that this issue be dealt with within their own council. She said it is her great concern that communication between the councils is maintained.

Sen. Towe asked Ms. Wimmer if both councils were needed. Ms. Wimmer said both councils didn't exist before the past four years. It was the sentiment of the Department of Family Services that they have their own council.

Sen. Towe asked Ms. Wimmer about the issue of overlap. Ms. Wimmer said that communication efforts are needed from both councils.

Joan-Nell Macfadden said she has been on both councils, and in the beginning, it worked well. She feels that to have both functions in one committee is a lot to absorb, and there are a lot of very differing issues, and time runs short to discuss them all.

Sen. Towe asked Candy Wimmer if the Youth Justice Council is federally funded. Ms. Wimmer said the Council is fully federally funded, and that dictates the membership of the council.

Joy McGrath said she cautioned the Committee about specifically including a provider when trying to be inclusive. There are many groups which should be included, for example an expert on Native American issues.

Sen. Christiaens asked Candy Webber about the status of future funding. Ms. Wimmer said their funding comes from the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and it was just reauthorized and appears sound.

Closing by Sponsor:

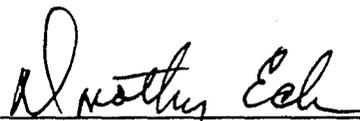
Sen. Eck said she felt good about the lengthy discussion about the Department of Family Services. She said that there was a "new feeling" that departments and agencies can work together without all being under one head. Sen. Eck said the language in SB 187 could be worked out to include providers. She said specifying the membership really didn't make much difference about who serves on the council because the County Commissioners will appoint individuals who want to serve. Sen. Eck said the revisions for state and local councils in SB 187 are good, but changing the language is fine.

ADJOURNMENT

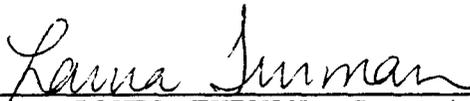
Adjournment:

Sen. Eck said before amending language to SB 187, the Committee should consult with the Department's attorney.

Sen. Eck adjourned the hearing.



SENATOR DOROTHY ECK, Chair



LAURA TURMAN, Secretary

DE/LT

What Can We Do?

Individually

As individuals, we can examine our personal commitment to "putting children and families first" in our homes, parishes, and communities. We can make a real effort to spend more time with our families, praying, playing and working together. We can contribute our time and money to programs that serve children and families in our communities. And we can use our voices and votes to help shape a society that allocates resources and enacts policies that support children and families.

In Our Dioceses

Across the Country, dioceses are launching creative local initiatives. They are:

- convening parish and diocesan leaders to coordinate efforts;
- writing local statements on the needs of children and families;
- developing special events and convocations that focus on meeting the needs of children and families;
- starting new programs to serve children and families, including parenting skills training, health care programs, etc.;
- producing media efforts and producing public service announcement to call attention to the needs of children and families;
- launching public policy campaigns to enact local legislation to support children and families;
- as well as many other exciting initiatives.

In Our Parishes

No institution in Catholic life is more important to the Campaign for Children and Families than the parish. Children and families are at the heart of parish life and the parish plays a vital role in supporting families and nurturing children.

In General: We can

- include a quote from *Putting Children and Families First*, in the bulletin;
- plan a Sunday with worship focused on

children and families, education on forces which undermine families, and service and advocacy for children and families;

- use the video, *I Am Only a Child* at parish gatherings.

In Worship: We can

- reflect our concern for children and families within the liturgy through prayers of petition, appropriate homilies, a regular or occasional family Mass, etc.
- identify feasts and liturgical seasons that lend them selves to a focus on children and families (e.g. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany).
- turn special collections (e.g. Campaign for Human Development, American Bishops' Overseas Appeal, etc.) into opportunities to educate, preach and respond to the needs of poor children and families.

In Education: We can

- incorporate our concern for children and families into religious education programs and school curricula;
- encourage students to learn about and offer service to poor children and families as part of their religious education program;
- sponsor special projects such as poster contests, essay contests, field trips to local agencies serving needy children, etc.;
- offer adult education on parenting or public issues.

In Social Ministry: We can

- strengthen or start a service program for the parish as a whole, such as providing a regular meal for a soup kitchen
- publicize service opportunities for individuals or families such as "sponsoring" a child from a developing country, or volunteering for a literacy program;
- educate parishioners about public policies that work against children and families.
- involve parishioners in child and family advocacy through a diocesan or state legislative network, a community organization or a letter writing or telephone campaign.

Resources

The best sources of help and ideas for participation in the Catholic Campaign for Children and Families will be your diocesan offices of social action, education, pro-life, family life, liturgy, and others, as well as your diocesan social service agency.

- *Putting Children and Families First: A Challenge for Our Church, Nation, and World.* The statement of the United States Catholic Conference that forms the basis of the Catholic Campaign for Children and Families. Available from the Office for Publishing and Promotion, USCC, 800-235-USCC. (Pub. No. 469-4).

- *The Parish Manual for the Catholic Campaign for Children and Families.* A compilation of resources including the text of the bishops' statement; liturgical aids; bulletin inserts and clip art; and suggestions for integrating this initiative into parish education, social ministry and family support efforts. Available in English (Pub. No. 525-9) and in Spanish (Pub. No. 534-8) from USCC/OPPS (see above).

- *I Am Only a Child.* A compelling introduction to the bishops' statement, this 14-minute videocassette reflects on the state of the world's children. The tape is available in English or Spanish (\$24.95 prepaid) from Lumen Catechetical Consultants, Inc., P.O. Box 1761, Silver Spring, MD 20915.

For more information contact the Department of Social Development and World Peace (202/541-3195) or any of the other national offices and organizations involved in the Catholic Campaign for Children and Families.

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"Our nation is failing many of our children. Our world is a hostile and dangerous place for millions of children. As pastors in a community deeply committed to serving children and their families, and as teachers of a faith that celebrates the gift of children, we seek to call attention to this crisis and to fashion a response that builds on the values of our faith, the experience of our community, and the love and compassion of our people."

U.S. Catholic Bishops
Putting Children and Families First

SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE
EXHIBIT NO. 1
DATE 1-22-93
HS 18

A CATHOLIC
CHILDREN
AND
FAMILIES
FIRST
CAMPAIGN

In November, 1991, the bishops of the United States issued a statement that called for renewed attention to children and families in our homes, our parishes, our communities, our nation, and our world. *Putting Children and Families First: A Challenge for Our Church, Nation, and World* challenges Catholics and others to engage in "a spiritual and social reawakening to the moral and human cost of neglecting our children." This initiative brings together social justice, family life, human service, pro-life, education and other agendas within our church in a common campaign for children and families.

PUTTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FIRST

While many children lead happy, secure, safe lives, too many others in our country and throughout the world do not. Every year, 1.6 million innocent children's lives are destroyed by legalized abortion in the U.S. alone. One in four children in this country lives in poverty. Every day throughout the world, 44,000 children die from poverty, hunger and related problems.

The Catholic community brings to this moral challenge three key assets: the values of the Scriptures where children are seen as blessings, the message of Catholic teaching which calls us to measure society by how children and families fare, and our experience in serving children and their families. We support their spiritual life in our parishes, we educate them in our schools, we care for them in our hospitals, and we provide a wide range of supportive services through our charitable and outreach programs.

While the bishops recognize that our homes, neighborhoods, parishes, and communities are where the most important work to support children occurs, they also recognize the role public policy can play in strengthening or undermining families.

"No government can love a child and no policy can substitute for a family's care, but clearly families can be helped or hurt in their irreplaceable roles. Government can either support or undermine families as they cope with the moral, social, and economic stresses of caring for children."

Further, the bishops decry an unnecessary and unreal polarization about how to help families, which has pitted those who promote more personal responsibility against those who support "family friendly" policies.

"The undeniable fact is that our children's future is shaped both by the values of their parents and the policies of our nation... We believe parental responsibility and broader social responsibility, changed behavior and changed policies are complementary requirements to help families."

CRITERIA FOR NATIONAL POLICY

The bishops suggest seven criteria for pro-family public policies:

- *Put children and families first in the allocation of resources and the focus of public life.*
- *Help; don't hurt. Support policies that strengthen rather than undermine families.*
- *Those with the greatest need require the greatest response.*
- *Empower families. Help families meet their responsibilities to their children.*
- *Fight economic and social forces which threaten children and family life.*
- *Build on the strengths of families; reward responsibility and sacrifice for children.*
- *Recognize that foreign policy is increasingly children's policy.*

THE CALL TO ACTION

Pointing to the many helpless and hopeless children who haunt our world, the bishops call on all of us to turn our values into action on behalf of children and families.

"We hope the Catholic community will become a persistent, informed and committed voice for children and families, urging all American institutions from neighborhood associations to the federal government to put our children first."

DIRECTIONS FOR PUBLIC POLICY

NATIONAL POLICY DIRECTIONS

1. Protect the lives of children by opposing abortion and government funding of abortion.
2. Protect family members from abuse by prohibiting pornography, reforming family services, and increasing support for adoption and foster care.
3. Promote decent jobs at decent wages, and support adequate job training.
4. Reform the tax laws to help families cope with the high cost of raising children -- e.g. a children's tax credit.
5. Provide for poor children through adequate welfare benefits and policies that promote family stability, not separation.
6. Promote family-friendly workplace policies such as family and medical leave protection.
7. Promote equal opportunity in education, affirmative action in employment and nondiscrimination in housing.
8. Promote quality education by offering programs like HeadStart, and vouchers or tax credits that allow school choice.
9. Support basic nutrition programs like food stamps and the Women, Infant and Child (WIC) program.
10. Extend quality health care to all, beginning with our children and their mothers.
11. Support housing, planning, and zoning policies that promote affordable housing.
12. Provide appropriate medical, educational, rehabilitative and social services for persons with disabilities, and ensure full implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
13. Embrace a "children first" principle in cases of divorce, and strengthen child support enforcement policies.

INTERNATIONAL POLICY DIRECTIONS

1. Meet the basic needs of children throughout the world, including shelter, food, health care, education, and the elimination of child labor, children in military service, and other exploitative practices.
2. Shape U.S. economic policies that include:
 - an international trading system that discourages the exploitation of children by ensuring that poor countries receive fair prices for their exports;
 - a foreign aid program that places emphasis on the needs of children and families rather than security and military interests;
 - a global financial system that recognizes the economic and social costs to families of developing countries' massive external debt, and pursues ways to relieve it equitably and realistically.
3. Oppose coercive population and abortion policies and discrimination against women.

Chairman and members of the committee, I am Jeana-marie Fiumefreddo

a student at the University of Montana.

SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE

EXHIBIT NO. 2

DATE 1-22-93

BY HB18

I began my life with three strikes against me. I happened to be the first born, of the fourth generation of abusive families. As a result my parents were never taught to be healthy, nurturing parents, and I paid the price.

However, after fifteen years my mother gained the courage to break the cycle, and removed me and my sister and brother from further more deadly violence. This action did not eliminate the residual effects of the abuse. My family to this day struggles to pull itself together.

This is not even the worst part. Another generation has been born. My daughter was born almost five-and-a-half years ago. She was born to a mother who had never learned appropriate parenting skills. Not only did I lack the skills to be a good parent, I didn't have any resources to help me, or even the skills to find any resources, which might have been available.

My husband, John, and I struggled to make ends meet, and four years ago an artic front hit. It put our only vehicle out of commition. John was not able to get to hes minimum wage job, and as a result lost it. We ended up on AFDC. Our marriage began to deteriorate, and our inocent child Jessica began to feel the effects. We swore that we would never abuse her, however those words are much easier to say. As our frustrations from the stress of life rose, and it became easier to swat Jessica, due to our impatients, for the smallest infraction. We knew nothing else.

It took a year before we found, after hunting for them, an agency to begin to eliviate the stress. One agency finally led to another, and we were finally able to get the help we needed.

However, there are many families who are not able to stumble across services as we did. And unfortunately its the innocent children like Jessica who pay the price.

I believe that this bill will lay the foundation for Montana, to work toward eliminating child abuse. It could be the diffrence between a child like Jessica faceing early death, or a life of misery, or it could be a chance for a successful start for a nurturing family.

DATE 1-22-93

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Public Health

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: HB 18, SB 187

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Check One		Other
			Support	Oppose	
Seana-marie L. Fiume-Freddo	Montana Council for Families	HB 18			
Jeanne Kemmis	"	"			
Nancy Cooper Smith	OPI	HB 18	✓		
SHARON HOFF	MT CATHOLIC CONF	HB 18	✓		
JUDITH CARLSON	MT ASSN SOCIAL WORKERS	HB 18	✓		
Ed Hall	MBCC	HB 18	✓		
Rep Roy Johnson		HB 18 187			
Paulette Kehman	MT Council Maternal & Child Health	HB 18 187	✓	✓	
Jim Smith	MAHSC	187			✓
Margaret Mary Shinn	(Visiting only)				
Jeanne Kemmis	m				
Jeanne Kemmis	self	SB 187			
Jeanne MacFadden	DFS	SB 187	✓		

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY