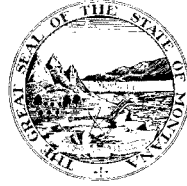


OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK  
GOVERNOR



ANGELA McLEAN  
LT. GOVERNOR

April 27, 2015

The Honorable Debby Barrett  
President of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Austin Knudsen  
Speaker of the House  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear President Barrett and Speaker Knudsen:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto Senate Bill 276 (SB 276), "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DIRECTORY OF PROVIDERS OF CERTAIN PERSONAL ASSISTANCE OR ATTENDANT SERVICES OR SUPPORTS; PROHIBITING THE COLLECTION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION; AND PROVIDING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES WITH RULEMAKING AUTHORITY TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN THE DIRECTORY."

I support the creation of a voluntary online directory of publicly-funded in-home health care agencies. In fact, the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) recently promulgated new Community First Choice rules that will allow Montana to provide additional information to consumers about both agency-directed and self-directed in-home health care services. DPHHS plans to develop an online directory that will assist Montanans in making informed decisions about service options for themselves and their family members. SB 276 is not necessary for the creation of such a directory.

Unfortunately, New Section 1(5) of SB 276 would prohibit the DPHHS from collecting information about workers who provide these publicly-funded services. This prohibition mirrors the prohibition contained in Senate Bill 277 (SB 277), which I vetoed on April 10, 2015.

The state has an interest in adequately assessing and evaluating the quality, stability and sustainability of the workforce providing publicly-funded in-home services. An important first step in understanding this vital workforce is gathering basic information about the people who provide such services and determining whether background checks have been conducted. Montana is one of only nine states that do not currently require background checks for home health care workers. While our state's rules do not go that far, they are a modest first step in better understanding this

President Barrett  
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vital segment of our workforce and in helping to protect both the families being served and the workers themselves. The prohibition in SB 276 on collecting information about persons who provide in-home care for aging Montanans would prevent the state from fulfilling this important interest.

I remain committed to evaluating workforce availability and sustainability, enhancing comparative information available to consumers, and improving the consistency and quality of care available to Montanans. SB 276 inhibits rather than supports the state's ability to advance these goals.

For these reasons, I veto SB 276.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Bullock", with a horizontal line above it.

STEVE BULLOCK  
Governor

Enclosure

cc: Legislative Services Division  
Secretary of State