

September 16, 2013

Dear Commissioners:

I am deeply disturbed by your initial rejection of the Title X funding. It is shocking to hear that your religious beliefs make you vote against helping the needy. You all have enough money to go to the doctor. That is good. But many people don't. If you stick to a decision to reject this funding, you will have condemned low income families to a lower quality of life. The women cannot obtain birth control to prevent pregnancy, nor have pre-natal care for a healthy pregnancy. Neither women, nor men can be screened for disease including cancer. They cannot have basic annual exams to maintain their health.

I commend Mr. Chilcott and Mr. Iman for considering the low income women and men in our valley. I would ask that Mrs. Foss, Mr. Burrows and Mr. Stoltz really think about this. You mention religion in your decision. Jesus took care of the poor and scolded those who looked down on them.

You have opted to deny 400 families services because one 16 year old girl also used the service. What would you have this daughter of possible abuse do? Suffer on her own with no opportunity for counseling? Have an unwanted pregnancy? Have a sexually transmitted disease with no help? With lack of birth control, go get an abortion in Missoula?

Mr. Burrows, where will these people get health care if you think that the county should not be involved? This is not county money. Our federal money is simply being passed through the county. This is money that we taxpayers paid into the system for just this reason.

I would also like to ask if you folks intend to use Medicare when you retire. My guess is that you all will use Medicare as a portion of your health care when you no longer have an income. Please think about that too as you will be using government services for your health care. As most older folks do, you will likely use more than you put in over your lifetime.

Additionally, it stands to reason that you will be eliminating several jobs. Several more of our county citizens will be facing financial hardship due to your decision. You are taking away their livelihood, their insurance, and also their opportunity for public health care which they will need now that they are unemployed.

Not everyone is as lucky as you folks are with loving parents, money, insurance and jobs. A decision to reject the funding appears to be judgmental and disrespectful to the citizens of this county. It is nowhere near what Jesus would do. Please accept the Title X funding without delay. We will respect and accept your change of heart. It is admirable to listen to the constituents and then change your mind. That is what makes a good leader. Thank you.

Sarah Roubik

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