AARP

AARP Montana
30 W. 14th Street
Suite 301
Helena, MT 59601

T 1-866-295-7278
F 406-441-2230
TTY 1-877-434-7598
www.aarp.org/mt

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 1/12/09
HB 30

January 12th 2009

TO: Members of the House State Administration Committee

FROM: Joy Bruck, volunteer advocate for AARP Montana

RE: Support of HB 30, Youth Election Judges

Chairman Himmelberger and members of the committee, my name is Joy Bruck and I'm a volunteer advocate for AARP Montana, a non-partisan organization of 165,000 members. AARP Montana believes the right to vote, along with full and fair representation, is the most basic of all political rights.

During a lifetime of working in the election process, I have spent many as an election judge. Election judges are absolutely critical for the election process to run smoothly, and in recent times it has been difficult to find people to fill these positions. AARP Montana and I believe that by allowing qualified younger Montanans to staff polling places, the elections process will run more smoothly for everyone.

We advocate for a system of voting standards that should ensure that the voting process is not burdensome, nor hampers access, and should establish eligibility but not in a restrictive way that will disenfranchise the voter. House Bill 72 helps to make the election process streamlined without sacrificing the integrity of the ballot booth.

Jennie Chin Hansen, President
William D. Novelli, Chief Executive Officer