



**Testimony in Support of HB2534
Anne C. Kubisch, President
The Ford Family Foundation**

Dear Representative Keny Guyer,

Thank you very much for inviting me to testify regarding the Poverty to Opportunity Commission. I am honored by the invitation.

I hope you have received the message by now that I will not be able to be present on March 28th.

Although I cannot be present at the hearing, I would like to share that The Ford Family Foundation would be pleased to collaborate with the Commission and work in partnership with the Commission on addressing the needs of high poverty rural communities. As you might know, the Ford Institute for Community Building has a long history of building capacity in rural communities to define local priorities for community wellbeing, develop action plans, and work together to implement community improvement strategies. These are the goals of the Poverty to Opportunity Commission, and therefore the new Commission would be able to leverage and complement our Foundation's investments. This would be an opportunity for the State, philanthropy and communities to work together in more powerful ways to combat poverty.

By copy of this note, I am submitting this to the official record so that the other members of the Committee can also know of The Ford Family Foundation's interest in working closely with the Commission in rural areas of our state.

Thank you for your support of this important effort.

Sincerely,

Anne C. Kubisch | President

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