



July 13, 2026

Dear Board of Yellowstone County Commissioners,

I am writing to request the use of funds from the upcoming dollars allocated to the HOPE Coalition. The HOPE Coalition would like to request \$7,500 of our \$50,000 a month early to secure an important youth prevention event for Yellowstone County middle school students this September.

The HOPE Coalition is bringing a nationally recognized speaker to Billings for a powerful presentation focused on making healthy choices, and preventing substance misuse. We anticipate that more than 500 middle school students, educators, and support staff from across Yellowstone County will participate in this impactful event.

This event represents an investment in prevention reaching young people before they face significant challenges and equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to make good decisions.

Thank you for considering this request and for your partnership in prevention for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie Schwarz". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Melanie Schwarz

Co-Founder, HOPE Coalition

Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Education