



A CLASSICAL AND CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION

EXHIBIT 12
DATE 2-2-05
HB 47

January 28, 2005

Roger Koopman
Capitol Building
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Roger:

I am writing to address HB47 regarding full day kindergarten. As an administrator of a K-12 private school, I speak with many parents regularly. Almost none would say it is in the best interest of the child for a kindergartner to go to school full days. Certainly my experience would not allow me to support the proposal.

While children that young are often high energy, their young minds and bodies tire quickly. Little real learning takes place the second half of the day, it becomes more just a matter of entertaining and baby-sitting until the day ends.

Secondly, full day kindergarten usually follows a pattern of every other day. Skipping a day between classes for students that young is not profitable either. They need the consistence of daily learning. Overall retention is very difficult for young students who are only in school every other day. There is a definite loss of learning as a result. This is true of young students far older than kindergartners.

I truly believe that most of the arguments for all day kindergarten are utilitarian in nature. It just fits parents' schedules better. It is easier to drop children off all day every other day than to make two trips per day. However, if education is truly about what is best for the children and training young minds, then I don't believe any thoughtful person should support all day kindergarten. I certainly do not.

Sincerely,

Louise S. Turner
Administrator