

Dallas Erickson Testimony
House Education Committee
SB 198 Anti-bullying
March 7, 2005

EXHIBIT 8
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SB 198

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am Dallas Erickson and Represent the 4000 Montana residents and supporters of Montana Citizens for Decency through Law.

Although there has been much mischievousness in this nation with anti-bullying laws, especially against those who oppose the homosexual agenda and lifestyle, we may support this issue if it was at the local level of the school board where the citizens of the community could have a say in it's directions and how it is administered and if all the recommended classifications were taken out. The policy should just be against bullying.

In West Virginia the Attorney General's office in 2003 started to administer a similar anti-bullying law. Those administering the program identified homosexuals as a protected class even though the legislature had never passed such special protection. They encouraged students to report their classmates who are not sympathetic to the homosexual agenda.

It was nothing short of the indoctrination of children to accept the homosexual lifestyle and caused bullying, harassment and intimidation against those opposed to homosexuality. That is what these laws tend to do nationwide and we oppose them on that basis as well.

I think we saw an example of what happens to those who oppose the homosexual lifestyle and who see it as abhorrent and dangerous. During testimony in this committee several days ago a young Representative moved to censor the testimony of Dr. Wise. This representative is hardly dry behind the ears and had the audacity to call this experienced Dr. a homophobe and his message as "gay bashing." Dr. Wise, who's name reflects his experience and wisdom on these issues and his expertise in sexually transmitted diseases and of seeing how homosexuality destroys lives and is the reason that homosexual men live such shorter lives than heterosexuals had some important things to say about his feelings against the homosexual agenda in the schools. Because of his expertise he was treated in a way that should shame anyone on this committee who favored it. If you would have had an "anti-bullying" policy in this committee based on "sexual orientation" it would have allowed such childish name calling and slander just like it will do in the schools.

By passing this bill you would be taking away local control from those that know best and that is the parents of the children in the school.

The potential for this bill to cause harassment and bullying, if not administered correctly, is great and we would ask you to table this bill.

Thank you.

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