

EXHIBIT 3
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HB 495

HB 495
House Taxation

February 4

Mr. Chair
Members of the Committee

For the record my name is Arlette Randash and I rise in support of this bill also on behalf of my husband Dean who could not be here today. We have utilized the Montana Endowment Program for the last three years. The provisions of the statutes of this endowment program have been a win, win, win for Montana. As is, it has provided funding for non-profit organizations who are often cash strapped, it provides valuable services for the people of Montana that these organizations deliver, and it builds Montana's economy by keeping charitable dollars in the state. HB 495 will now allow public schools to benefit also.

HB 495 goes even a step further in that those who are only able to give smaller amounts of money can do so simply without the paper work of creating separate or complex annuities. Public schools or private schools could create one endowment into which donations are gifted.

As a grandmother there is another thing that I've long been concerned about. If people could gift money in smaller amounts to endowments to both public and private schools for sports, debate teams, drama, bands and etc, far fewer little children would come knocking at your door often unsupervised by adults. I've long shuttered at the danger of young children soliciting door to door.

Yes, as taxation committee you will undoubtedly look at how this effects tax revenue. But the truth is the cultural and charitable benefits offset the tax considerations up front.

Lastly, if nothing else this endowment slated now to sunset in 2007 must be made permanent. All non-profit organizations supply valuable services and good deeds that mold our cultural climate. HB 495 is good legislation. Please support it, if the only aspect you support is making the current Montana Endowment Program permanent.