

Dallas Erickson Testimony
Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee
SB 198 Anti-bullying
January 17, 2005

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board,

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.

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 also.

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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MONTANA STATE SENATE

+++++ WITNESS STATEMENT +++++

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SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 14

DATE 1-17-05

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REPRESENTING Self

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL ? S.B. 198

DO YOU: SUPPORT _____ OPPOSE X AMEND _____

COMMENTS:

Bullies have always been on the scene. And yes, it is getting more violent. But go back - our problems started getting worse when we kicked God out of our schools.

Charter schools / private schools do not have the problems of bullying & discipline that the public schools. Why does the charter school in Nampa Idaho have a 1500 student waiting list???

The teachers principals & superintendents in the public schools have had their hands tied so to speak. They have been denied the power to be able to effectively discipline the students in their class rooms & schools.

I urge you to oppose this bill.
Former teacher M. Shannon Bennett

**PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH
COMMITTEE SECRETARY**