

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 6

DATE 2-14-05

BILL NO. SB-219

12 February 2005

RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB 291

Dear Senator Ryan and members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 291. Since 1992, my wife, Heidi and I have home educated all three of our children. Currently, our oldest son is a junior on the Dean's list, at Pensacola Christian College, while our daughters are at grade level and excelling with other activities in our community, such as 4-H, jobs, and volunteer work at a local nursing home. I find this bill unnecessary and intrusive into my responsibilities in educating my children. Not a single provision of SB 291 would have enhanced their education in any way.

As written, SB 291 does not, in fact, cannot, ensure any improvement in the quality of education a child will receive. It merely adds layers of red tape and bureaucracy to the lives of law-abiding Montanans, dumps an additional unnecessary workload on our public education system, and requires an infusion of monetary resources – our tax dollars- for dubious and undeterminable results.

At this writing, I am at a redeployment camp in Kuwait, awaiting return to Montana after a one year tour of duty in Iraq with the Montana Army National Guard. It strikes me as odd that after giving a year of my life away from my family, to help provide the people of Iraq with opportunities and freedoms which they have never experienced; my family faces the prospect of having our own freedoms diminished as the result of this bill.

The state laws currently written concerning home education provide adequately for the state's interests. I respectfully urge you to reject Senate Bill 291.

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