

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 21

The following exhibit is collection of essays by, Montana's Home Educated Children 2005. Essays are entitled; *"Why I love my home school."*

This collection exceeds the 10-page maximum that can be scanned therefore only the cover and 5 essays have been scanned.

The original exhibit is on file at the Montana Historical Society and can be viewed there.

Exhibit Number: 8

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SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 21

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Why I Love My Home School

A Compilation of Essays

By

Montana's Home Educated Children

2005

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Age 18

“Why I Love My Home School”

What a privilege I have as a homeschooler! What an amazing chance to succeed and thrive I have been given by my parents. By choosing to homeschool me, my parents have given many years of their lives in order to teach me one-on-one. To be able to ask my teacher any question on any subject at any time, has allowed me to achieve the best education possible.

But the freedoms that I enjoy are the product of many years of labor and time. Parents have fought for years to receive the right to homeschool their children. They dove into this task with such vigor and passion that they expressed to the whole world the love that they have for their children. What, but an endless devotion to see that their children got the best education possible, could give them such drive?

Homeschooling has allowed me to let my interests and goals drive the direction of my education. Because of the flexibility in our schedule that homeschooling has allowed, I have been able to volunteer in a wide variety of community organizations. I have volunteered at the C.O.P. Shops (Community Oriented Policing), helped at the public library book sales, created an information database for our church, and spent a year helping with the preparation for a state-wide homeschool convention.

Having this schedule flexibility has also given me the chance to spend time with wonderful role models. I have been able to spend time with older men, especially my dad, grandpa, and an elderly neighbor, all of whom are men of class and integrity.

To be homeschooled is a privilege and a freedom that I appreciate immensely. My parents have been able to pass their values, morals, and their faith down to me. I cannot take this lightly. I have been given an incredible gift, one that will serve me well through my entire life. That is why I love my homeschool.

Sincerely,



Reese Holle

Why I Love My Home School

By Tyler Stockton

I am an 18 year old, senior, home schooled student from Helena, Montana. Except for kindergarten, first grade and one year in private school, I have been home educated my entire life. I have also taken one course at Capital High School. After attending all these different educational choices and seeing the pros and cons of all of them, I would have to say that home education is my absolute favorite form of education. Following are three reasons why I love my home school.

First, home schooling gives me the freedom to study the basics and the interests that appeal to me. My interest in the computer field led me to take classes at the University of Montana – Helena College of Technology at the age of 16. As a result of this, I am the senior computer technician at a local computer store here in Helena. I was also able to attend classes at The Discovery Bible Institute. These classes allowed me to study my faith and better understand my beliefs. Being home schooled enabled me to complete a total of 24 college credits before graduating from high school.

Second, home schooling allows me extra time to have a job during the day. I work on my school in the morning and then leave for work. I have held a daytime job for the past 3 years and still have had my evenings free to play competitive home school basketball, participate in my Boy Scout and church activities, and spend time with family and friends. Because I was home schooled, I had the time to advance to the level I am presently at in my job of employment, to develop my skills in basketball, build strong bonds with my family and friends, and complete my studies.

Third and lastly, home schooling has allowed me to develop people skills I would not have had the opportunity to learn if I were in a traditional school setting. I am able to converse with elderly people, my peers as well as young children. Home schooling also helped me to interact better with my family and develop close relationships with them. At the age of ten, I started volunteering at the legislature as a page and turned that into testifying on bills for the last two sessions. Home schooling has given me the opportunity to learn both speaking and listening skills to be used in a productive way.

My parent's decision to home school me gave me the best educational opportunities I could ever imagine. I not only learned the basics well, but was able to pursue the subjects I enjoyed the most, which has led me to my present occupation. I am grateful for the choice my parents made to educate me at home.



Why I Love My Homeschool

Hi. My name is Rebekah L. Allison and I am 17 years old and in the 11th grade. I live in Central Montana. I have been homeschooled for 13 years by my Mother with the support and help of my Father. In my free time, I teach students beginning piano and sing in a homeschool choir.

I love my homeschool because I have quality family time. When you are homeschooled, your parents have the choice of picking the curriculum that is best for your specific needs and learning methods. I am able to talk with them about any subject I am studying. We often have family discussions about material I have studied. I also have interaction with my younger sister. I enjoy helping her with her schooling. It brings us closer together and helps me learn teaching skills. Being homeschooled I'm able to learn more about my family and their history because I am with them so much of the time. My Grandparents live near, so I also talk to them daily and receive benefit from their wisdom on many subjects. Homeschooling brings the entire family closer.

I love being homeschool because when we have to take a trip, I just take my schooling along, so I do not fall behind. Plus, I am able to work at my own pace and often finish early. I am then able to pursue other interests or work once I have finished my required courses and hours. I like having the freedom and flexibility of schedule to go further in study about a related topic or subject. If something interests me in history for example, which I love, I am free to study it longer.

I love having the freedom to pray and read the Bible in my homeschool. In my homeschool we can discuss the Bible and talk about God. This is very important to me.

Homeschooling in America is a wonderful freedom and I am very thankful for the privilege. Homeschooling in Montana is wonderful freedom and I am very thankful for the privilege.

I love my homeschool and would not choose anything different for my life.

Rebekah L. Allison

Why I love my Home School

Home schooling has allowed thousands of parents to teach their children in a way that is not in conflict with their beliefs. It has made it possible for extremely smart children to progress at a rate that is not slowing them down, and kids that are a little slower to have individual attention from the teacher. It makes it possible to teach religious beliefs of all kinds, and chose a curriculum that follows those beliefs.

It is not that public school is a bad thing, it is we want to home school and that right should not be taken away from us, just like it would be wrong for us to say that every one should home school. People need to realize that people are different and learn in different ways. Some learn in a group environment while others need individual attention from the teacher. And who knows that better than the parents.

Some would say that home school parents are just to lazy to send their children to school, but in reality that does not make sense because most parents are not on a mission to make sure their kids don't learn anything, most parents want their kids to do well and learn everything they can. Sure if you look hard enough you might find someone who thinks learning is evil but most people don't, it would be unfair to penalize good parents who want the best for their children because of a very small number of people who think education is a bad thing. It would be like a ban on bricks because some people use them as weapons, it just doesn't make sense. if home schooling is so bad why are so many spelling bees are being won by children schooled at home. It is obvious that home schoolers are keeping up academically why try to stop something that isn't bad.

We should feel so blessed to live in America, where we have the right not only to vote, to be what we want to be , to do what we want to do and have the right to get an education in a way that does not come in conflict with what we believe. If this right is taken away, how long will it be before we lose other rights. Lets not give up the right to be home schooled.

Tysen Tuma
Cut Bank
age 17

