

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 26

DATE 2-14-05

BILL NO. SB-291

Timothy J. Hiebert
Bozeman, Montana

Concerned Montana Citizens for Home Schooling

Chairman Ryan, members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Tim Hiebert, I live in Bozeman and I thank you for the opportunity to submit this oral and written statement.

It is my sincere belief that the honorable Senator from Great Falls has only one goal; the honest and faithful attempt to fulfill his duty in protecting our children from those who would harm. I believe that this bill stems from the fear that all men have of the abuse of power. Unfortunately in this instance we are misguided in our attempt to fix a problem that does not exist.

If we briefly analyze the current education system that exists in public schools in the state of Montana and across the country, then we will quickly realize that not all children succeed and that not all teachers are honorable. It is unfortunate but the elimination of evil from our communities is impossible. Evil exists in homes, businesses, and schools across our great nation. Men and women of poor character have abused children in every facet of life. For this reason do we withdraw in fear or do we continue to stand for what is right and just.

To take away the freedoms that have made this country great is to give into fear. Until we can eliminate the problems that currently exist in everyday schools, holding the private education of our children to a higher standard is unfair and unjust. It is my firm belief that the successes of home schooling far outweigh any abuses that may or may not take place. When education in the State of Montana can produce a spotless record of no failures, no abuses, then at that time we should reopen this debate. Until that point, legislation designed to protect only results in the elimination of freedom, and the elimination of freedom only leads us to tyranny.

It is my opinion that this bill, should not be passed; because the elimination of rights has never succeeded in eliminating evil.

Chairman Ryan and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for your time, may God grant you wisdom in the decisions that you make.

Tim Hiebert
Bozeman, Montana