

SB191
February 14, 2005

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 34
DATE 2-14-05
BILL NO. SB-291

My name is Dr. Roxie Sporleder and I teach both undergraduate and graduate classes in Assessment as well as other courses in education. I hold both a Montana state teaching license and an administrative license. I have worked with principals and teachers in at least 25 Montana public schools in 11 school districts. In addition, I have worked with many home educators as well as private schools.

I am gravely concerned about many aspects of SB191.

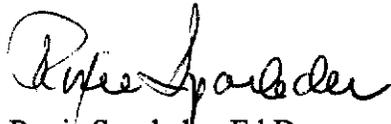
1. **Using the assessment to screen for poor teaching is an invalid and improper use of these assessments. There is not one piece of research, not one certified teacher, and not one testing company that will support this use of assessment.** I don't think you could find one teacher in the state of Montana or even in our nation that would approve of this. You can read for yourself in the Mental Measurements Handbook that this is an improper and invalid use. You can read it for yourself in the material put out by the testing company. *This bill legislates the improper use of these tests.*
2. **The use of the assessment to screen for disabilities is an improper use of the assessment.** There are whole school districts that score below the 30th percentile in subject areas. Even a large, well-respected school district in Montana continually scored in the 30th percentile in spelling for several years.
3. **To assume that the public school can do a better job of teaching a disabled child is fallacious and has no basis in research or in fact.** I work with disabled students from both home schools and public schools. In fact, I am currently teaching a fifteen year old boy with Aspergers (a mild form of autism) to read that the public school has been unable to teach. I also work with disabled home schoolers. In my experience, the home schooled disabled child does *better* than the public school counterpart. There are two reasons that I have observed: the home educated child receives more one-on-one attention *and* has not been labeled, a terrific boon to the child who then sets no limitations on him/herself. Remember, these are students who have difficulty learning in *any* environment.
4. **The reporting to the county within 14 days of beginning to home educate is discrimination.** Neither public schools nor private schools have to report during that time frame. Home educators should have the same consideration. The law, as it stands now, gives that consideration.

5. **The requirement for a teaching license or college degree is disparaging and discriminatory.** It assumes that those without those kinds of degrees do not know as much as those with a college degree. Many business people and respected people are lifelong learners and are very well-informed. It disregards the many conventions, books, and training resources available to the home educator. They may not get "college credit" or a "teaching certificate" for their learning, but they are well-informed and well-equipped to teach.

This bill violates the proper use of assessment by standards set forth by any teacher's union and by the companies that develop the assessments.

Please vote "NO" on SB 191.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roxie Sporleder".

Roxie Sporleder, Ed.D.

Example of Achievement Test Scores of a Montana School District

School Year	Grade	Subject	Novice Percent	Nearing Proficiency Percent	Proficient Percent	Advanced Percent	Average Percentile Rank
			<i>0 - 23rd percentile</i>	<i>24 - 40th percentile</i>	<i>49 - 89th percentile</i>	<i>90 - 99th percentile</i>	
2003	8	Math	60%	20%	18%	2%	24 th ile
2003	8	Science	48%	23%	27%	2%	29 th ile
2003	8	Social Studies	42%	24%	34%	1%	33 th ile
2003	8	Language Arts	45%	27%	27%	1%	29 th ile
2003	8	Reading	59%	15%	25%	1%	25 th ile
2003	11	Math	41%	26%	28%	6%	35 th ile
2003	11	Language Arts	40%	27%	31%	2%	32 th ile
2003	11	Reading	41%	23%	31%	4%	32 th ile
2003	11	Social Studies	31%	20%	44%	4%	37 th ile
2003	11	Science	29%	18%	49%	4%	40 th ile

This information and information for *any school district* in Montana can be found at:
[http://data.opi.state.mt.us/irisreports/main.asp?PageId=filter.asp&RptID=70&RptName=SecureData&Pr
 cName=procAssmtSecure&RptCategory=Assessment](http://data.opi.state.mt.us/irisreports/main.asp?PageId=filter.asp&RptID=70&RptName=SecureData&Pr

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