

I have home educated my children for several reasons.

- Education – My daughter receives individualized instruction. We neither need to wait for ones not understanding a concept nor do we need to skip further explanation for those ready to move on. She learns at her own speed.
- Approach to education – Even evolutionists adhere to the “evolution theory,” meaning that all of these are merely theories in the human point of view. I do not adhere to the evolution theory but rather to the creation theory. In the same mindset I will teach abstinence at the appropriate age rather than free condoms from organizations like Planned Parenthood. We have God in every part of our lives, including school, rather than having Him partitioned into a Sunday morning and Wednesday evening timeframe. I want the religious freedom to teach my child.
- Safety – At this point my daughter is 8 years old. At home I have no fear of her being molested or physically hurt in any way, nor do I fear her riding a bus on an icy road down the mountainside.
- Physical growth – The public school bus in this area would pick up my 8-year-old daughter at 6:50 a.m. She would return about 4:45 p.m. She requires 10 hours of sleep on average to feel well. That leaves four hours for anything else.
- Expanded education – In connection with the physical growth reasons, she has plenty of time to cover the basics of education and still explore dance, piano, sewing, swimming, snowboarding, Spanish, typing, reading, Girl Scouts and chorus and drama. She need not spend almost three hours on a bus nor all the waiting times normally incurred with large groups of people. At the same time she enjoys a wide variety of social interaction during her other activities and with her friends.

The current laws are already adequate.

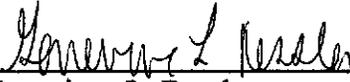
- Same age requirements (20-5-102)
- Same compulsory attendance – with provision for an attendance officer (20-5-103 and 20-5-104)
- Same health and safety regulations (20-5-109(3))
- Same basic instructional program (20-5-109(4))
- Same responsibilities and rights of parent (20-5-111)

The problems with the proposed bill:

- There is no evidence that a certified teacher is a better teacher.

- This bill gives far-reaching powers to the school district. This bill therefore assumes that the school district knows what is best for the child more than the child's parents or guardians. And there is no provision for a parent/teacher to appeal the decisions of a school district.
- There is no real reason why a stepparent or guardian could not teach a child.
- The testing provisions of a public school exam would require the parent/teacher to alter the instruction to "teach to the test." Therefore, the parent/teacher would lose the right of directing the education of the child as they deem best.

Respectfully submitted,



Genevieve L. Ressler
5496 W. Kootenai Road
Rexford, MT 59930
406-889-3810
jressler@interbel.net