

MONTANA SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE

ROLL CALL

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

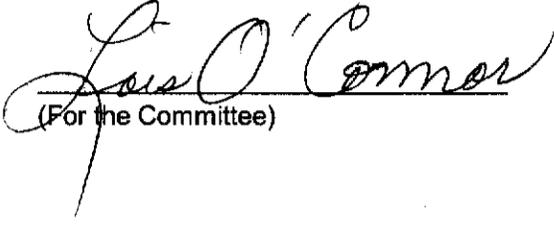
DATE 2-14-05

NAMES	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SEN. DON RYAN, CHAIRMAN	✓		
SEN. GREGORY BARKUS	✓		
SEN. JERRY BLACK	✓		
SEN. JIM ELLIOT	✓		WAS
SEN. KIM GILLAN, VICE CHAIRWOMAN	✓		
SEN. BOB HAWKS	✓		
SEN. SAM KITZENBERG	✓		WAS
SEN. JESSE LASLOVICH	✓		
SEN. JEFF MANGAN	✓		WAS
SEN. DAN MCGEE	✓		
SEN. ROBERT STORY	✓		
CONNIE ERICKSON, LSD	✓		
LOIS O'CONNOR, COMMITTEE SECRETARY	✓		

COMMITTEE FILE COPY

TABLED BILL

The **SENATE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE** TABLED **SB 291**, by motion,
on **Monday, February 14, 2005**.


(For the Committee)

(Secretary of Senate)

_____/_____
(Time) (Date)

February 14, 2005

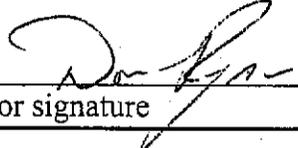
Lois A. O'Connor, Secretary

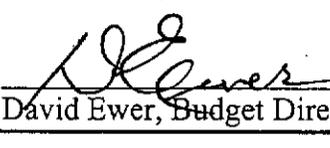
Phone: 4891

FISCAL NOTE

Bill #: SB0291 Title: Quality home school and child protection act

Primary Sponsor: Ryan, D Status: As Introduced

 _____ Date _____
 Sponsor signature Date

 _____ 2/7/05
 David Ewer, Budget Director Date

Fiscal Summary

	<u>FY 2006 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2007 Difference</u>
Expenditures:		
General Fund	\$7,700	\$7,700
Revenue:		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Net Impact on General Fund Balance:	(\$7,700)	(\$7,700)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov. Impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Revenue Form Attached | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2 |

Fiscal Analysis

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. For the FY2004-2005 school year, there are 3,971 home school students registered with the county superintendents.
 - Kindergarten: 107 registered home school students
 - Grades 1-8: 2,932 registered home school students
 - Grades 9-12: 932 registered home school students
2. Of these students, it is estimated that 400 home school students are 4th graders, 330 are 8th graders, and 230 are 11th graders. SB 291 would require home schoolers in Grades 4, 8 and 11 to take the Iowa Tests. The contract amount for OPI's contract with Riverside Publishing company would need to be increased by approximately \$7,700 annually to include testing for an additional 960 students.

FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY 2006 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2007 Difference</u>
Expenditures:		
Operating Expenses-testing	\$7,700	\$7,700

SB 291

Montana State Legislature

Index for SB 291 Additional Documents

1. Montana State Senate 2005 Visitor Register for SB 291

Only 25 pages of the 114 pages (average of 1,300 visitors) of the Visitor Register has been scanned, because it exceeds the maximum amount of pages that can be scanned for Visitor Registers.

2. Other Documents have not been scanned they exceed the maximum number to be scanned. Twenty-five will be scanned to aid in your research, these include various papers ranging from verbal testimony, letters, and flyers, well over 500 pages was submitted. There is no sequence or order to this information.

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

Montana Historical Society Archives, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620-1201; phone (406) 444-4774. For minutes in paper format, please contact the Montana State Law Library, Justice Building, 215 N. Sanders, Helena, MT 59620; (406) 444-3660. Tapes and exhibits are also available at the Historical Society (tapes are retained for five years). Scanning done by: Susie Hamilton

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 2-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ~~S~~ (S) Ed

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Athena Hall	727-1263	self-homeschool	^{SB} 291		X
Colleen Turk	755-7756	self (homeschool)	^{SB} 291		X
Pat Murphy	752-2383	self for homeschooling	^{SB} 291		X
Kimberly Radosevic	755-7378	self for homeschooling	^{SB} 291		X
Janette Ewing	467-2332	self homeschool opposition	^{SB} 291		X
Tim Ewing	467-2340	self homeschool opposition	^{SB} 291		X
Ruth Baer	755-9455	Self for homeschool opposition	^{SB} 291		X
Joanna Baer	755-9455	Self for homeschool opposition	^{SB} 291		X
Shula Wlaminge	249-1816	Home school	^{SB} 291		X
LINDA METTAM	727-4843	Group Home / Foster Care	^{SB} 291	X	
Leslie Luikens	257-8856	OPPONENT	^{SB} 291		X
Elleey Luikens	257-8856	OPPONENT	SB291		X
Kristen Van Fleet	837-7263	Opponent	^{SB} 291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

DATE Feb 14 2005

SENATE COMMITTEE ON _____

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: _____

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Jamie Johnson	763-4697	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Matthew Johnson	763-4697	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Dale Sestron	325-6690	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Veri Fulbright	406-788-4590	Homeschooling	SB291		X
John Fulbright	"	"	"		X
Sean Fulbright	"	"	"		"
Harvey "	"	"	"		X
Cody "	"	"	"		X
Jessica "	"	"	"		X
Tyler Rasmussen	863-9700	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Margie Rasmussen	863-9700	"	SB291		X
David Rasmussen	863-9700	"	SB291		X
DANE RASMUSSEN	863-9700	"	SB291		X

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

YRATEDORR RSTIUNDOO

DATE February 14 2005

SENATE COMMITTEE ON SB 291

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: _____

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Samuel Linabay	899-4518	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Stacey Jobbes	388-4883	Home school	SB291		X
Cheryl Arnaud	763-3145	Home school	SB291		X
ROB ARNAYD	763-3145	Home school	SB 291		X
Pattie Baer	755-9455	Home School	SB 291		X
Shalom Baer	755-9455	" "	SB291		X
Bethany Baer	755-9455	" "	SB291		X
David Baer	755-9455	" "	SB291		X
Rachel Baer	755-9455	" "	SB291		✓
Christie Freary	734-5234	Homeschool	SB291		X
Michael S. Baer	755-9455	Homeschool	SB291		X
Carisa Cegavske	452-5711	Homeschool	SB291		X
John Lest	388-1055	Homeschool	SB291		X

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE _____

SENATE COMMITTEE ON _____

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: _____

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
CHRISTINA McNene	2125763	Self	291		X
Leana	"	"	"		"
Jeremy McNene	"	"	"		"
Tim McKensuk	406-431-452	Self	291		X
Jennifer McKenick	4346243	Self	291		X
Charles Prossi	498-6400	Self	291		X
Hunter Beaman	4586400	Self	291		X
Melanie Nuttle	675-5115	Self	291		X
Kenja Nuttall	675-5115	Self	291		X
Michelle	7827892	Self	291		X
Bob Yeager	892-1967	Family	291		X
Kathleen Yeager	892-1967	Family	291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 2/14/05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON SB 291

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: _____

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
GERARD Tokarski	373-0028	Big Sky Christian School	291		X
Mack Thomas	754-2480	Seeley LK	291		X
Josh Thomas	754-2480	Seeley LK	291		X
Leah M. Thomas	754-2480	Seeley LK	291		X
Erin M. Thomas	754-2480	Seeley LK	291		X
John Fentason	227-8359	Self	291		X
Vivian McNamee	212-5763	Self	291		X
Timothy "	"	"	"		"
Sean McNamee	"	"	"		"
Geoffrey			291		X
Adriana McNamee	" "	"	291		X
Katie Dilge	262-9755	"	291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 9-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB-291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Debra Jacobs ⁽⁴⁰⁶⁾	547-3587	Home School	SB291		X
Wilma Brassard	449-6196	Home school	" "		X
Amy Ralls	458-1174	Home School	" "		X
TERRI JARVIS	363-7592	HOME SCHOOL	SB291		X
ALICE FIELDING	(623) 825-6053	Home School	SB291		X
KEVIN JARVIS	363-7590	HOME SCHOOL	SB291		X
Danielle Jarvis	363-7590	Home school	SB291		X
Allison Hale	961-1407	Home School	SB291		X
Annalee Hale	961-1407	Home school	SB291		X
Chris Hill	961-1407	Home school	SB291		X
Wendy Greenfield	961-3980	Greenfield Home Educators	SB291		X
Mark Greenfield	961-3980		SB291		X
Heidi Strain	961-3619	Home school	SB291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 2-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Doniel Merrill	961-4285		SB291		X
Amanda Greenfield	961-3980	Home School	SB291		X
Larissa Phares	642-3016	Home School	SB291		X
Arnette Meuchel	961-4285	Home School	SB291		X
Nancy Balyeat	868-3657	Homeschool	SB291		X
Susanna Balyeat	868-2782	Home school	SB291		X
Jeff Benton	348-2772	Home School	SB291		X
Gaye Abrahams	259-5606	Home School	SB291		X
Becca Abrahams	259-5606	Home School	SB291		X
Melody Benton	348-2772	Home School	SB291		X
Cathy Anderson	626-5534	Home School	SB291		X
Stacy Anderson	626-5534	Home School	SB291		X
Cailey Anderson	626-5534	Home school	SB291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 2-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Jesse Anderson	626-5524	Homeschool	SB291		X
Paul Peck	681-3127	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Jordan Peck	681-3127	homeschooled	SB291		X
Cyndi Peck	681-3127	" "	SB291		X
THOMAS OLSON	388-770	HOMESCHOOLING	SB291		X
TAMMY OLSON	388-770	HOMESCHOOLING	SB291		X
ETHAN OLSON	388-770	HOMESCHOOLING	SB291		X
DIANNE OLSON	388-770	HOMESCHOOLING	SB291		X
Brad Wright	388-2479	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Cindy Wright	388-2479	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Anna Wright	388-2479	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Lily Wright	388-2479	Homeschooling	SB291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 2-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Kangler Bradford	225-4280	Home Schooling	SB291		X
Zero Cook	755-2250	Home Schooling	SB291		X
Lonnie Cook	755-2250	Home Schooling	SB291		X
Brian Lapka	793-5548	Home Schooling	SB291		X
Cara M. Katzbeck	225-4280	Home School	SB-291		X
Daniel J. Katzbeck	225-4280	Home School	SB291		X
Zachary A. Katzbeck	225-4280	Home School	SB291		X
Madeleine E. Katzbeck	225-4280	Home School	SB291		X
Ben Lapka	793-5548	Home School	SB291		X
Rebecca Lapka	793-5548	Home School	SB291		X
Ruth Lapka	793-5548	Home School	SB291		X
James J. Melnicko	475-3757	Home School	SB-291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 2-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Wanda Maggard	388-2394	Homeschooling	291		✓
Annie Maggard	388-4405	Home school	291		✓
Veronica Maggard	388-4405	Home school	291		✓
Melissa Jankstrom	585-7417	Home schooling	SB291		X
Melissa Hartley	257-3456	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Brent Hartley	257-3456	Home schooling	SB291		✓
Jim Russell	212-7977	Home schooling	SB291		X
Josiah Russell	755-6044	Home schooling	SB291		✓
Erin Russell	755-6044	Home schooling	SB291		X
Brenda Russell	212-7977	Home schooling	SB291		X
Kasi Stump	723-4632	" "	SB291		X
Jula Stump	723-4632	" "	SB291		X
Lele Stump	723-4632	" "	SB291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 2-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Ed.

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
JACK & MARGIE BOWERMAN	406 849-5177	Homeschooling	SB 291		X
Bryan & Eva Brander	849-5993	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Rachael Brander	849-5993	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Mike Meuli	849-5085	Homeschooling	SB291		X
John M. Meuli	849-5085	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Mikayla M.	849-5085	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Flynn Hartley	257-3466	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Lauren Hartley	257-3466	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Mary Lou Blouse	533-0406	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Elisha Blouse	533-0406	Homeschooling	SB291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 2-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Kaylee Briscoe	462-3686	Home School	SB291		X
Cindie Wynn	442-4066	Home School	SB291		X
Josiah Munday	849-5413	home school	SB291		X
Lance Wynn Munday	378-2375	home school	SB291		X
Eric Wynn Munday	378-2375	home school	SB291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

DATE 2-14-05 BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Deb Erickson	582-9560	homeschool	SB291		X
Jay Anne	586-7081	HOMESCHOOL	SB291		X
Anita Erickson	582-9560	home schooling	SB291		X
Abbeleen Metcalf	586-2955	Homeschool	SB291		X
Lesly Hardman	455-6412	homeschool	SB291		X
Neira Erickson	582-9560	homeschool	SB291		X
GAIL HEATON	522-7284	Homeschool	SB291		X
RANDY HEATON	"	"	"		X
Kylie HEATON	"	"	"		X
Robbly HEATON	"	"	"		X
Andrew Heaton	"	"	"		X
Abby Heaton	"	"	"		X
Landon HEATON	"	"	"		X
Vivian Heslep	933-9126	home school	SB291		X
JAY HESLEP	933-9126	home school	SB291		X
Karun Heslep	933-9126	home school	SB291		X
Jonathan Heslep	933-9126	home school	SB291		X
Chris Miltenberger	933-9123	"homeschool"	SB291		X
Diana R Doud	457-1537	Homeschool	SB291		
Log Jo Mann	288-3027	✓	SB291		X
Rachel Kay Ann Mann	✓	✓	✓		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 02-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education & Cultural Resources

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
STEVEN M. PAUL	406 932-5426	Big Timber, MT.	SB291		X
Nolly Miltrenberg	933-9123	SB 291	SB291		X
Ron June	406 287-7896	Family	SB291		X
Don Nolte	225-3214	Family	SB291		X
NEUVE HOLLARD	439-6565	FAMILY	SB291		X
Lisa Nolte	225-3214	Boulder	SB291		X
Julie Bury	443-4006	Helena	SB291		X
Darrel Scott	443-6501	Helena	SB291		X
Charlotte Branham	475-3112	East Helena	SB291		X
Antonie Groun	443-5324	Helena	SB291		X
Jennifer Williams	406-1590	Helena	SB291		X
Ashley Robinson	227-4080	Family	SB291		X
Christa Branham	475-3112	self	SB291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 02-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education & Cultural Resources

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
HARRIS Himes		Mont Fern Coalitions	SB 291		✓
missy Jackson		Columbia Falls MT	SB 291		✓
Roxanna Ryan		Plains, mt	SB 291		✓
Caleb Ryan		Plains MT.	291		✓
Darcylion Ryan		Plains MT.	291		✓
Autumn Morton		STEVENSVILLE MT	291		✓
Summer Morton		Stevensville MT	291		✓
Autumn Morton		Stevensville, MT	291		✓
Karluciane Ryan		Plains Montana	291		✓
Jake P.E. Ryan		Plains Montana	291		✓
Michael Helmet		Quando MT	291		✓
MIKE LOBER		BILLINGS MT	291		✓
Marjorie Lober		BILLINGS MT	291		✓

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 2/14/05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education & Cultural Resources

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Diana Lode	442-1070	SB 291			X
Charles Easterling	458-0192	SB 291			X
Kevin Sewell	287-7896	SB 291			X
Cari Reinschmidt	287-3476	SB 291			X
Reina Zuniga	799-9603	SB 291			X
John Zuniga	799-9604	SB 291			X
Charles R. Crowder	452-1867	SB 291			X
Tammy J. Crowder	452-1867	SB 291			X
Bill Deeson	899-1361	SB 291			X
Katrina Mittenberger	933 9123	SB 291			X
Molly Mittenberger	933 9123	SB 291			X
Maryclaire Mittenberger	933 9123				X
Margot Mittenberger	933 9123				X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 2-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education & Cultural Resources

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Jolene Brush	685-3340	Brush homeschool	SB 291		✓
Thomas Faber	442-0546	Faber Homeschool	291		✓
Colette Faber	11	/	/		✓
Lexie Faber	11				✓
Lynn Farrenkopf		Farrenkopf household	SB291		✓
Victoria Meyers	206-4109	Meyers Household	SB291		✓
Briete Bongardner	739-4231	Bongardner homeschool	SB291		✓
Kelly Bahmiller	378-3257	Bahmiller home-school	"		✓
Tom Farrenkopf		Family	SB291		✓
CHRISTINE RIFFA	386-2401	Riffa Homeschool	SB291		✓
Jonathan Barbagella	449-7864	Jonathan Barbagella	SB 291		✓
Kelly Lanchbury	406-378-2375	Homeschool	SB291		✓
Ellen Lanchbury	406-3782375	Lanchbury Homeschool	291		✓

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 2-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Holly Harris	406-873-4054	Harris Homeschool	SB291		X
Kit Harris	873-4054	Harris Homeschool	SB291		X
Marla Hennig	467-3489	Hennig Homeschool	SB291		X
Jillian Barboglio	449-7804	Self Home Academy	SB291		X
Sue & Zell Hall	842-7390	Myself + Family	SB291		X
Nancy Bannister	842-7317	Family	SB291		X
Lynda Hennig	452-6518	Hennig Homeschool	SB291		X
Nancy C. Hennig	452-6518	Homeschool	SB291		X
Becky Wypocki	586-7264	Homeschool	SB291		X
Ursula D. Martin	727-5924	Self	SB291		✓
Lindsay Robinsu	63-9225	Self	SB291		✓
HT Margolis	866-3252	Self	SB291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 2-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education & Cultural Resources

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Jonie Estell	423-5241	Benchmark Homeschool	SB291		X
Bred					
Charlotte Estell		Homeschooling	SB291		X
Ann Murphy	849-5413	King's Orchard ^(Home school)	SB291		X
Barbara Lee	667-2284	Homeschooling	SB291		X
Meriah "	"	"			X
Abigail "	"	"			X
Tabitha "	"	"			X
Hannah Lee	667-2284	"			X
April Tew	"	"			X
Josiah Murphy	849-5413	homeschool student	SB291		X
Katrina "	"	" "	"		X
Jemimah "	"	" "	"		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 2-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education & Cultural Resources

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Connor Murphy	899-5413	homeschool student	SB291		
Shannon Murphy	"	"			X
Lawrence Walsh	889-3810	"	SB291		X
Loni Charlton	227-1200	homeschool student	SB291		X
Elijah Walker	475-5568		SB 291		X
Mckenzie Chambers	443-2846		SB291		X
Teal chambers	443-2846	self	SB291		X
Sierra Chambers	443-2846		SB291		X
Beulah Branson	392-5397		SB 291		X
Holly Branson	" "		SB 291		X
Jane Branson	" "		SB291		X
Jerry Branson	" "	Home School	SB291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 02-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education & Cultural Resources

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Mark Rope	406 4672434	Self	SB 291		X
Lanet Rope	"	self	"		X
TINA OLSON	406-222-2600	Self	SB291		X
Debbie Graybeal	406 222 0180	self	SB291		X
Leslie Sue Boer	442-6930	self	SB291		X
Danielle Neal	562-3645	self	SB291		X
Larry Anderson	458-3981	Self	SB291		X
Larry Koljonen	453-7043	family)	SB291		X
Janet Koljonen	453-7043	family)	SB291		X
Ben Koljonen	"	self	SB291		X
Thory Sell	866-3570	Self	SB291		X
Scott, Abigail, Abram Koljonen	453-7043	Self	SB291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 02-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education & Cultural Resources

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB-291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Joni Balian	586-8350	family	291		X
Dennis Balian	586-8350	family	291		X
Phyllis Jocher	276-3633	self	291		X
Karriett Barber	899-7044	family	291		X
Susan Rodwick	756-3773	family	291		X
Dale Rodwick	756-3773	family	291		X
Marge Thompson	458-024	family	291		X
Nancy McMaster	752-5752	family	291		X
Hannah Koljonen	453-7043	self	291		X
Josefa McMaster	752-5752	Family	291		X
JEFF KNUDSEN	933-5825	Family	291		X
Scott & Julie Lindgren	457-1272	Family	291		X
Jay & Joann Krushenski	443-2952	Family	291		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2005 LEGISLATURE**

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 02-14-05

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Education & Cultural Resources

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 291

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Amber Nelson	771-7505	Self	SB-291	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Robyn Nelson	771-7505	Family	SB-291	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Roger Nelson	771-7505	Self	SB-291	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Naomi Nelson	771-7505	Self	SB-291	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Heidi Ries	207-64177	Family	SB-291	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Felicia Rosberg	458-5679	Family	SB-291	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jay Rosberg	458-5679		SB-291	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will Decker	276-3633	Family	SB-291	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rhoda Powell	287-3618	Family	SB-291	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
William Hayward	" "	"	SB-291	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kent & Lois Gilg	262-9755	family	SB-291	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Debra Briscoe	467-3686	family	SB-291	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brenda Scott	443-6501	family	SB-291	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

OTHER

DOCUMENTS

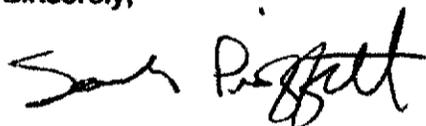
Sarah Proffitt
3130 E. Hollyhock
Belgrade, MT 59714
406 388-8367
2/1/05

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to express my concern about the new home school bill that has been recently brought to my attention. I am a special education teacher in the Bozeman Public school, and last year I had a student with Downs Syndrome whose mother has decided to home school her this year. As much as I was sorry to see her go, I was very supportive of this parent's decision for a couple of reasons. Due to the nature of Sara's disability, she needed one on one assistance to stay on task during most all learning situations. She is so extremely distracted by others around her that we had to pull her to a quiet, secluded room by herself to get her to focus on her academic goals. Often it was hard to find a space without distractions. The other reason I felt home schooling would benefit this student was because of her strong desire to mimic other students, especially the students with odd, or inappropriate behaviors. At home the parents have more control over her exposure to people and situations.

I see this student every week now, as she comes to school to receive speech therapy. I am amazed at the progress she has made in reading, writing and her math skills since she has been learning at home. Without the distractions of other students and the activities that go on in a public school she has been able to learn to her fullest potential. I know that she is getting socialization with other children through her church and the home school network in Bozeman. I do not think home schooling is beneficial for every student, but at this time I feel very strongly that it is the best for Sara's academic success. I would hate to see her lose this opportunity to achieve to her fullest potential. As well I would hate to see these parents lose the choice to educate their child in the way they see best.

Sincerely,



Sarah Proffitt
Special Education Teacher

1/31/05

**Jane Harris
508 West Lamme St.
Bozeman, Montana
59715**

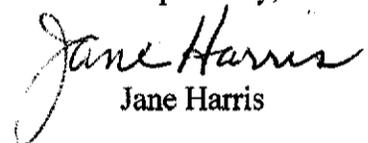
Senate Education Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jane Harris and I have been a full time Special Education Aide in the Bozeman School System for the last eight years. I do not have a teaching certificate but I do spend a majority of each day working one on one with individual students. I am writing this letter about a student I had the opportunity to work with last year. Sara Schuster entered Emily Dickinson School as a six-year-old kindergartener with Downs Syndrome. She spent two years in kindergarten before moving on to first grade where I began working with her. Sara is eager to learn and given the right atmosphere has the potential to be a good student. The first couple of weeks in first grade were wonderful for Sara when the students were just getting to know their fellow classmates. When it came time for academics Sara soon became frustrated, sometimes to the point of tears. Because of Sara's disability she is extremely and easily distracted. You can imagine how hard it was for her in a first grade classroom with 20 plus other students. Each day we would search for a quiet place in the school to work on reading and math. I was amazed at Sara's reading skills when she was able to keep her focus. Unfortunately it didn't take much to get her off task and there was truly not a place to be found in the school where Sara could concentrate on the curriculum that would be necessary for her to keep up with the rest of her first grade classmates.

At the end of last year's school year, Sara's mother made the decision to home school Sara. Sara comes to school at least once a week for speech therapy, so I still have contact with her mother and get weekly progress reports. Sara has done amazingly well working one on one with her mother at home. As much as I miss working with Sara at school I support her family 100 % in their decision to keep her home. I believe Sara will reach a higher level of education in a home school environment with the constant support from her family.

Respectfully,


Jane Harris

Linda M. Zupan
Sign Language Instructor
2415 Flathead Creek Road West
Wilsall, Montana 59086
lmzupan@mcn.net
578-2329

February 2005

Dear Senate Education Committee Members:

As a Montana Certified teacher, I am writing to express my concern about HB 291 specifically sections 8: (3) (a) and (i) which address issues pertaining to special needs students. Though this bill has been proposed to protect specific children, I do not feel that it adequately allows for the best needs of all children. As written this bill does not offer the flexibility for caring, concerned parents to educate their children at home should they and their children's teacher deem this the best course of action.

I would like to convey my thoughts on a particular child, Sara Schuster, who I feel is better off being schooled at home at this time. Sara's parents; Scott & Kristin Schuster, both educated, have been faithful advocates for Sara and her best interests since her birth and diagnosis as a child with Down Syndrome (DS). Shortly after Sara's diagnosis in the spring of 1995, Kristin contacted me to ask if I would accompany her to a workshop on DS. This was one of the first of many quests Kristin pursued in order to gain as much information as possible as to what was best for Sara. Sara is now 9 years old and Kristin continues on her pursuit of what is best for Sara.

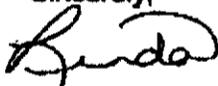
In 2004, Kristin made the determination that Sara would best be served by schooling Sara at home, along with her other daughter, Annie. As a kindergarten teacher of 10 years Kristin contacted me in August to see if I would come to her home and take a look at the materials she had gathered for her in-home learning environment and to offer suggestions as to how to set up a classroom. Upon arriving at the Schusters' home, I was pleasantly surprised to see that Kristin had set aside a special area in their furnished basement as a classroom. She also showed me an impressive collection of books, manipulatives and school supplies she had gathered and organized.

In September of 2004, I returned to find Kristin had added school desks, an easel, a computer, posters, bulletin boards and charts to this area. I personally assisted Kristin in organizing this space that day. After answering some specific questions classroom management. I modeled some activities for Kristin to incorporate into her teaching.

My schedule has not allowed me to return to the Schusters at this time, however, I vividly recall Kristin contacting me early in January to share her enthusiasm at the great gains she was noticing in Sara's classroom performance and comprehension of abstract tasks which were earlier deemed difficult for Sara. Kristin told of the many science experiments the girls had conducted and how their questions had led them to further in-depth studies of many subjects.

It is with these thoughts in mind that I urge you to reconsider the components of HB 291 that would not allow such a dedicated parent as Kristin Schuster and such motivated students as Sara and Annie Schuster to continue with their work that matters.

Sincerely,



Linda M. Zupan

February 7, 2005

Dear Senator Ryan:

I am writing this letter to express concern about the upcoming bill regarding home school students. I have not had a chance to read the bill in its entirety, however my concern is in reference to its mention of students with disabilities. Presently, I am employed as a Speech Pathologist with the public school and have been an advocate for Special Education for many years. For the first time, parents of a student with Down's Syndrome have chosen to home school their daughter. I have continued my speech therapy program with Sara at the public school with a Private School Plan. Sara's family have been devoted to making home school work for Sara. Progress has been noted first hand in many academic areas. She has also been given ample opportunities to work on socialization, as they are involved in many activities. I would oppose any bill that would restrict this family's opportunity to educate their daughter however they choose.

Sueann H. H. H. H.
145 Hitching Post Road
Bozeman, Mt. 59715
406-587-8897

February 10, 2005

Dear Senators,

I would like to start by introducing myself. I am Deborah O'Reilly business owner, wife and mother to four children. I am not usually a politically inclined person; however, a bill has been brought to my attention that I think is worth the time and needs some direction. It is senate bill 291 Quality home school and child protection act.

The bill addresses our current home schooling laws. The focus of the bill is the regulating and monitoring systems in place for the children being home schooled. This bill focuses on what is believed to be best for the child; however, it is a gross violation of parental rights. The area of the bill, which is most alarming, is where it prohibited parents with children with a learning disability to be home schooled. This would include parents with children with such disability as Down's syndrome and autism.

Parents who have these special children are forced to make difficult choices about the needs of these children on a daily basis. These are often difficult agonizing choices you and I hope we never have to make as parents. I personally know one family who has made the difficult choice to homeschool their disable child. This choice was made after long consideration of what was best for the child. The particular child I would like to bring to you attention is Sara Schuster.

I worked with Kristen Schuster, Sara's Mother, at First West Insurance for 10 years. The family has made great sacrifices to home school Sara. The decision came after two years in the public school system where Sara struggled. With much consultation with the public school they agreed that Sara might benefit from the home school environment. Sara, like many disable children, are easily distracted and have trouble focusing at the level which is required for learning. Home schooling is a more controlled environment where distractions can be kept to a minimum. The individual attention, which can be provided in home school environment, is necessary in teaching children with disabilities. Kristen has been able to provide Sara with the tools she needs to learn. Kristen has kept in touch with the public school, which provides Sara with speech therapy on a weekly basis. They have seen the progressive strides Sara has made since she left the public school to be home schooled.

Senate bill 291 takes away the parental right to direct the education of a disable child. It prohibits them from home schooling their child. There is no basis or need for this bill. It is a violation of parental rights. It is **discriminatory** to those children with disabilities. I hope you take to time to consider the negative effect this will have on children with disabilities. I strongly oppose this bill and I am glad it was brought to my attention. I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and hope you will consider opposing this bill.

Sincerely,

Deborah O'Reilly

Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Tyler Stockton and I am an 18 year old home educated student.

Let me share some things about me. My parents decided to home educate me when I was in the second grade. I was home educated until my freshman year of high school, when my parents enrolled me in a local Christian high school. That year I excelled at that school. My grades of A+ in every class showed that I was capable of handling any subject matter because of the education my parents had given me. When the next school year was approaching, with a new principle and new requirements my parents did not think were appropriate, they decided to home educate me once again. I presently have two classes left to finish before I leave for the United States Marine Corps on August 15. I have been in the Boy Scouts since I was ten and was given the rank of Eagle Scout in 2001. I am also a Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow, and Lodge Chief for the Apoxy Aio Lodge. I received a 1240 on the SAT and a 98 out of 99 on the ASVAB (the military entrance exam) test, without any prior study.

There are several reasons why I am against this bill:

1. In order for a child to pass a standardized test they are taught to the test. Nationally standardize tests are designed to go along with the curriculum public schools use. In order for the home educated children to do well on these tests, they would have to teach exactly the public school curriculum.
2. This bill would make it against the law for a disabled child to be home educated. I believe that many disabled children can receive a better education when they are at home with their parents where they are in a loving atmosphere. Being at home provides them with confidence that they can conquer the material that is presented at their level.
3. This bill also makes it illegal for stepparents and legal guardians to home educate their children. These people have just as much right to teach their children as anybody else.

I feel that I am a walking example that home education works with the present law on the books. Please, I urge you to vote no on SB 291.

Just as a reminder, Abraham Lincoln was home educated and I'm pretty sure the state didn't supervise his home school.

Sincerely,



Tyler Stockton

Suzanne Gorder, Ph.D.
9440 Haggerty Lane
Bozeman, MT. 59715
February 3, 2005

Montana Senate Education Committee

RE: Senate Bill 291

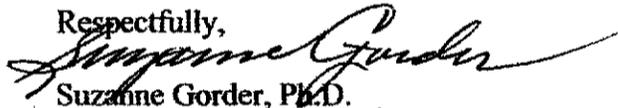
Dear Senator Ryan:

I am a professional musician, member of the Musicians Union, Local 709, American Guild of Musical Artists, and Bozeman Piano Teachers' Association. I have performed and taught music in numerous settings in the U.S.A. and abroad. As such I am in an excellent position to compare home school students with public/private school students in terms of scholastic competence and achievement in the field of music. Without reservation, the home school students score consistently higher; they arrive at class well prepared, self-assured, and are socially appropriate in class. More over they delivery a reliable musical performance.

Of particular concern to me is the clause in Senate Bill 291..." Prohibit the home schooling of children determined to have a developmental disability such as autism or Down's syndrome..." This past semester I had Sara Schuster in a choir. Due to her mother's knowledgeable and supportive instruction, Sara was able to participate fully in singing and dancing with her sister in public performance with the group. It is widely acknowledged that public schools cannot afford the one on one instruction that parents can offer in a safe and comfortable home environment to developmentally disabled students.

Personally I cannot believe the Democratic Party sponsoring a bill which would effectively strip parents of their parental rights in Montana. I am a Democrat based on the party's traditional protection of individual human rights and consistent promotion of social justice. This bill would take away a very basic parental right and deny social justice. I expect the Democratic Party to reverse their support of this bill. If not, a multitude of human rights advocates will withdraw their vote and support for our Democrat senators and representatives. Surely there are more creative ways of funding public education than forcing enrollment.

Respectfully,



Suzanne Gorder, Ph.D.

Testimony Against SB 291

Mr. Chairman and Senate Education Committee members,

My name is Joellen Barbagello. I live in Helena, Montana. I hold a B.S. in Elementary Education from Montana State University-Bozeman. I have taught in several school districts in the Helena area and at the university level in China. I learned in my education classes and classroom teaching two critical issues:

- 1.) a student being ready for any concept will maximize their ability to master that concept.
- 2.) the best teaching and learning environment is with a low student to teacher ratio, similar to the tutorial method used in public schools.

Based on these two criteria, my husband and I chose to home educate our own children.

Educators know, and studies prove, that children develop at different rates than others of the same age, especially academically. However, the current educational practice in the State of Montana requires that the age of a student, rather than their readiness for any academic course, be the standard for placing students in a grade level. Once in that grade a child is locked into that level of teaching for all subjects, regardless of personal development or readiness for any given subject. This is the lock-step curriculum.

There is an attempt to accommodate developmental differences through remediation and Gifted and Talented programs in public schools, with additional cost and effort on the part of students, parents and school personnel.

In my personal experience, teaching 7th and 8th grade at the Montana City School District, the subject of readiness became a major issue with my students, especially boys. Many of these children were considered failing. However, in reality they were simply not ready for some cognitive jump in academic requirements placed on their age and grade level.

Testing in these cases only confirmed what I already knew as their teacher. They were not ready. Yet the results and stress of those tests set up incredible personal and emotional barriers to learning, instilling a sense of defeat within each student.

The real cause of the students' struggles over mastery of the material was that their level of development had not yet achieved maturity in the areas tested. The lock-step system is not able to accommodate these developmental issues.

As a Home Educating parent for over 15 years, with several sons, I have seen the current home school law gives parents the freedom to teach each academic discipline in a tailor-made curriculum based solely on the readiness of their child in that discipline. Student mastery in this approach is excellent, and the re-teaching of concepts is practically eliminated. The intense one-on-one tutorial approach the home educational environment provides these children is only validated by the public school utilizing the exact same one-on-one tutoring model for any remedial students in public school. When using the tutoring model as the primary method, any need for remediation is incorporated into the day to

day curriculum and does not present any stigma or barriers to the student's academic progress.

The requirement of SB 291 for standardized testing will require all home school students, regardless of their readiness in any subject to be tested at one particular grade level. The strength of home education is in not locking any child into a specific grade level and evaluating each child as they are ready to move through the material chosen specifically for them. The public school model does not allow for such an individualized academic path for each child.

If only for the importance of teaching according to development, and the primary use of the one-on-one tutorial method for teaching students, I would request the committee to reject this bill. But these following points would add to the weight for the argument to table this bill in its entirety.

- SB 291:
- 1.) requires more from Home School students and their parents than other non-public schools in the state of Montana by requiring name, age, grade, immunization records and standardized testing.
 - 2.) calls the parent the supervisor of the home school, rather than the teacher. If the parent is not the teacher, who is?
 - 3.) requires a B.A./B.S. or teacher certification for the parent (though merely a supervisor according to this bill) without documentation or evidence that these additional requirements on the parent will benefit the student.
 - 4.) requires a monitor for parents with a diploma or GED without any purpose given for the monitor other than reporting the child's progress, which a parent can do.
 - 5.) requires standardized testing, forcing the curriculum to match the test for the best scores.
 - 6.) contradicts existing law where a parent has the right to choose curriculum and course of study, as well as the evaluation of the student, yet must pass standardized tests.
 - 7.) requires monitoring without determining who bears the costs of this requirement.
 - 8.) requires home school parents to pay for the costs of these State mandated standardized tests when public school parents do not pay for the same service.
 - 9.) requires developmentally disabled students to be taken from the home, usually the best environment for their special needs.
 - 10.) removes the right of step-parents and legal guardians to educate their children or wards at home, though they bear the same legal responsibility for a child as any biological parent.

I respectfully submit these issues as evidence that to change the current home schooling law would eliminate the most educationally superior option for a parent to chose in educating their children at home.

Joellen Barbagello 6430 Raven Road Helena, Montana

Eileen M. Gamett
301 Riverview 7 West
Great Falls MT. 59404

In Regards to SB291:

As a parent who is a neophyte to home school, I still feel the threat of your bill pushing into my home. We left public school because of the uncomfortable restrictions of the system. We just don't fit into what some call the "norm". I have had some terrible experiences with teachers in conferences. I have written letters to the school board and Dr Dunn. In response I was contacted by a school principle who said he had spoken to the teachers and they had no idea why I was so upset and they all thought the conferences had gone so well. When I left in tears that should have been an indicator that the conference had not gone well! I felt my child was under attack and that my ability as a parent was being called into question. I could not do well in that environment and I cannot ask my child or children to try and do well in what I would call an unfriendly environment.

In February 2004 we made the jump and tried home school. I began to research the topic at length and discovered a wealth of resources and support. We read novels together, watch films and build on the cable in the classroom series on Discovery Channel. I have found work books as well as CD's for every subject necessary. I absolutely love the serendipitous moment when the light comes on and you know the understanding is there. My middle child (Kevin) was watching the Assignment Discovery for the day which was discussing the periodic table of elements. At the mention of iron he tells me, "Iron, that FE. I know that from my anatomy lesson." After watching Hamlet, my youngest son states, "So the king is dead, the queen is dead, and the prince is dead. That pretty much wipes out that royal family!" "Yes it does" I reply. "What do you think will happen next?" He thinks for a moment then responds with, "Maybe they will get taken over by another country. England was willing to kill Hamlet at the kings request" Incredible thinking! As an added bonus my three year old daughter is learning well beyond her years. I am considering bring some preschool work books home for her as she can already type her name on the computer and recognize the letters of the alphabet. Her development at an accelerated pace I contribute to her brothers and their being at home to study. They teach her. Our family bond is stronger. All stress related illness has vanished.

Now you wish to take our comfort away and force upon us the very restrictions we were fleeing. It seems you want to dictate to us what, when, and how we study. You even want to place your own people in my home to monitor me and my children. Such an invasion into our lives and home make me feel like a monitored criminal instead of a parent trying to do what is best for her children. I feel you are even trying to remove some of my resources. Different does not mean wrong. We achieve the same goals. We raise strong healthy people ready to take on what the world brings. Don't you think we realize the importance of what we do? It is our desire as loving parents that makes us seek the alternative. I know my children best and have the patients and understanding to teach them life skills. Please let me!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen M. Gamett". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a prominent initial "E".

Eileen M. Gamett

TO Senate Education Committee Members

**FROM Terry and Kristiana Gregory, Alberton, Montana
Opposed to Senate Bill 291**

When my husband and I began discussing the opportunity for our children to be home schooled, we took the matter very seriously. After all, when our children graduated from our home into society, their successes or failures would be largely based on what they had been taught and how well they had been educated. We had many long talks together, mainly discussing the reasons we were choosing this method of education for our children versus government education in the public school system. Since I would be conducting the vast majority of the education myself, as a full time mother and at home parent, I spent a great deal of time researching home schooling in its entirety. My husband and I were greatly encouraged by all of the positive information and feedback we found.

As we determined to educate our children in our home, the following were a number of key reasons that led to our decision:

1. We know and believe that we have been entrusted by God with our children, to raise them up in the best manner we can. We alone are responsible for their upbringing and training, their early childhood being the most critical time to lay the foundation for the rest of their lives. **We take this matter very seriously.**
2. We know and believe that the way our children conduct their lives will be largely based upon the rules and guidelines that are set for them in our home and the consistency with which they are taught to follow them. This primarily involves the development of their character and the moral values they are taught which will carry them through the rest of their lives. **We take this matter very seriously.**
3. We know and believe that no one in any public or private school will ever be able to teach our children the proper values, beliefs and worldview better than we will as their parents. What they are taught in our home will determine their behavior when, as adults, they take their place in society. **We take this matter very seriously.**
4. We know and believe that materials currently taught in public schools are in direct conflict with our knowledge of God and our living faith in Him. We have made, and continue to make, our own decisions as to when our children will learn certain subjects, what and how they will learn about those subjects and what they will not be exposed to pertaining to those subjects. **We take this matter very seriously.**

We have thoroughly read and discussed the proposed legislation in S.B. 291 and we are opposed to the bill in its entirety. The restrictions this bill would impose on all current and any future home schooling families in Montana are unreasonable and in certain sections against current federal laws. In 2004, Congress was successfully lobbied to add a provision to the No Child Left Behind Act that makes it illegal for states to require a homeschooler to take state assessments. Also, S.B. 291 is unconstitutional as it requires a student to be tested on material they haven't been taught. S.B. 291 would destroy our rights as parents to direct the education of our children by forcing us to teach

them government approved curriculum.

Members of the Senate Education Committee, we are asking you to defeat S.B. 291 today. Imposing this bill on the families in Montana who have chosen to exercise their rights and freedoms to educate their children in loving, home environments would be grossly unreasonable. Current Montana laws pertaining to the home schooling community have been working favorably for over 20 years now. There is no evidence given to support implementation of this bill.

Thank you very much for your valuable time and attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Terry and Kristiana Gregory

Terry Gregory
Kristiana Gregory

Chairperson and Education Committee:

Having read and re-read SB 291 I feel my son's education and long term well being would be compromised if this bill were to become law.

My son was 7 years old when my husband and I adopted him in July of 2004. Prior to his adoption he had been in a Russian orphanage for 6 years. We were advised by an attachment therapist with a Ph.D. and by our social worker that home schooling would be best for our son.

He is dreadfully behind based upon age; due to language and post-institutional behaviors. SB 291 section 9, 20-5-102 would impose unfair burden on us. My son's life long attachment and ability to become a healthy member of society would be compromised.

under the stress and strain
of a judicial review and/or
trustee hearing.

Please consider the small
portions of the population who
are trying to already protect
their damaged children
from more harm.

SB 291 would cause my
family undue and unfair
burdens if passed. Please
do not pass SB 291.

Sincerely,

Elichai + Amber Fowler
Park County, Montana

2/12/05

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Rebecca Cox and I am a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department at Northern Montana Hospital. This letter is to address Senate Bill 291 in regards to home schooling.

I was home schooled as a child for 5 years until my junior year when I entered public high school. My experience as a home schooled child was a very good one. I received excellent academic instruction through a home school curriculum. I did very well with the school work and was actually advanced a grade upon entering public high school based on the content of the subjects which I had already completed during home schooling.

I had plenty of friends and socialization as well as extracurricular activities during the time I was home schooled. I did not feel isolated by being at home instead of inside a school. My parents were very supportive, instructive and encouraging during this period of time. The decision to enter public high school was a difficult one and was based on financial demands necessitating my mother having to work outside the home.

I have no regrets about the time I was home schooled. I feel I was given better moral guidance at home than in school and was better prepared to deal with the peer issues that arose in public high school. I performed well academically once I entered public high school also and was on the honor roll. I was able to get into nursing school feeling well prepared for that challenge.

I believe home schooling is a positive benefit to children and families. Parents who choose to home school their children do so to provide the best possible education that they can. I am seriously considering home schooling my own two children in the future.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Cox

Rebecca Cox

To the Senate Education Committee:

I am an Emergency Physician in Havre, Montana. This state's current excellent homeschool law allows me the freedom to school my children as I believe is right. It has also allowed an open, supportive community of homeschoolers to develop in Havre. It would seem to many that I would have motivations to leave Montana; the hourly pay scale for ER doctors in Havre is below the 25th percentile nationally. Additionally, my supportive family lives 2,500 mile away in North Carolina. The excellent homeschooling law is very important to my decision to remain in Montana. Please vote no to SB291. --Cameron Parham, MD

Craig and Diana Doud
PO Box 249
Clancy, MT 59634

February 13, 2005

Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Senate Education Committee Member:

We are writing this letter to express our adamant opposition to Senate Bill 291, "Quality Home School and Child Protection Act". We feel this bill is intrusive and counter productive to the quality education that we have committed ourselves to providing for our children in our home.

The overall tone of the bill implies that the state knows what is best for our children supplanting the role of the parent. We do not understand why the state does not take on more of a supportive role for parents who choose to take responsibility for raising and educating their children as opposed to hindering their involvement.

We firmly disagree with the position that a parent is unqualified to teach their children unless they hold a baccalaureate degree and / or teaching license. This idea is completely without merit. My formal education does not include a baccalaureate degree, still this did not adversely impact my ability to learn and succeed in the business environment. My current position is that of a district manager overseeing the Wal-mart stores in this state. My wife, who also does not have a baccalaureate degree, and is the primary educator of our children, had a career as a RN and put this career aside to take on the responsibility of educating our children.

We feel that education is more than academics; it is an all-encompassing learning process preparing our children for their future. This is done by raising and educating our children in an environment based on biblical principles.

Section 8 of the bill requires participation in state level assessments. These tests would not accurately reflect the quality of education received in the home. One of the advantages of home schooling allows the parents to chose the curriculum and sequence in which it is to be taught. This curriculum and sequence may not directly match with the curriculum that the state standardized tests are geared to. Many home schoolers, we included, regularly test to assess how well the students have learned the material being taught. In doing so, the parent can determine the most effective method to teach the material to the child.

It seems to me that common sense would dictate that children with learning disabilities would benefit more in a loving environment where they can receive one-on-one instruction from a parent that has lifelong commitment and understanding of the child's needs, learning style and abilities.

In conclusion, we again urge you to vote against this bill. This bill will only hinder the outstanding education that home schoolers have been, thus far, able to provide for their children in the state of Montana.

Sincerely,

The block contains two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is on the left and appears to be 'Craig Doud'. The second signature is on the right and appears to be 'Diana R. Doud'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig & Diana Doud

The people writing this bill seem to believe that the parents are not capable of taking care of their children without oversight. We believe that parents have a God-given responsibility to oversee their children's education and well-being. We take this seriously and feel likewise that one who is not a parent will not have the same vested interest in the child.

We began to home school in 1982 because we felt that God had given us the responsibility for our children's education, and we knew we'd be traveling overseas and wanted the continuity home schooling would bring to their education. In subsequent years we have successfully home schooled our eight children, both overseas and in Montana, and have always tried to fulfill the requirements of the law.

Our first son graduated with honors from Calvin College, and is studying for a masters and working in computer programming. Our second son is nearing completion of a degree as a certified gemologist and recently won first prize in a national competition for a ring he designed. Our third child is in the process of studying for a nursing degree. Our last son is developmentally delayed and, because we were unsure how to proceed, we put him in a public school special ed classroom for six months last year. Although we appreciated the help from the people at the school, it is obvious that he began to really learn and flourish when we developed a home based program using private therapists and took him out of the public school. As a friend of ours who is a special ed teacher said, although the teachers do their best, it is impossible to meet the needs of the children adequately in a classroom with a ratio of one teacher and aide to ten children. They just don't have the resources nor personnel. Of all children, special needs children like our son may need to be home schooled the most, because they learn best with one on one tutoring.

Please, for the sake of the children, vote against SB291

Respectfully, John & Nancy Fowler
608 Alkali Creek Rd.
Billings, Mt. 59101

Dear Senator Don Ryan;
Chairman Education Committee;

We have been Home schooling for fourteen years now. We have graduated two children with a GED. The GED tester was impressed that our children had such a broad knowledge in all areas of the test, something she had not seen before.

Our oldest child graduated from the dental assistant program with honors. The instructors were interested in her as they had never had a home-schooled student before, but they were impressed with her ability to meet the challenges of the classes. Our second oldest child is currently in college and perusing a career as an x-ray technician.

Both of these children have done well socially and with the jobs they have held. These two children do not use drugs, are not sexually active, do not drink, party, nor carouse at night. A lot of the reason for this is the home schooling environment that they grew up in and the moral values that we taught.

Our choice of curriculum and at what age the curriculum will be taught is a major factor in our choice to home school. Forcing us to take your tests will affect our choices and timing in teaching curriculum.

Statistically home schooled students perform very well in the academic world, National Spelling Bee, and Geography Bee in which they participate. Colleges are seeking out home schooled students for enrollment as they have good work and study habits. All this is done without "trained" teachers, and yet the education these children receive is excellent.

Montana has a very good home school law on the books now with accountability already built in. Truancy laws are already on the books that can be enforced if a parent is not home schooling their child but just keeping them out of school. Current Montana law states that a parent has the sole responsibility to evaluate the student's progress (20-5-111 MCA). SB291 would take many parental rights away. It would also take away the ability of a parent to home school their handicapped child, one who does not meet the thirty percentile limit in the standardized tests. Please vote no on SB291.

Respectfully submitted,


Jay D. Aspevig
20 King St.
Cut Bank, Mt. 59427
(406) 873-4825

Dear Senator Don Ryan;
Chairman Education Committee;

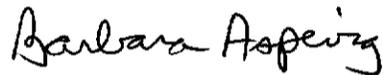
Thank you for your willingness to serve Montana by being a Senator. Thank you also for your concern for the education of our children. They are the future of not only our state but also our nation.

I have been home educating for fourteen years. I was convicted to do so in order to choose my own curriculum for my children. That is why SB291 concerns me. I do not want my children to be tested in an unfamiliar setting over curriculum that they are not being taught.

The laws we have for home educators is adequate to keep parents accountable. If there are rare problems, they can already be addressed through our current laws. We do not need to be harsher on parents and students who are currently meeting the criteria of a productive home school setting.

Please vote no on SB291. We do not need to over legislate our hard working parents. I applaud teachers who are willing to work with children. In the same manner, we should also applaud parents who care enough to give up a large portion of their lives at no expense to the state in order to prepare their children for service to our nation.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Aspevig
20 King St.
Cut Bank, Mt. 59427
(406) 873-4825



TOM WILLIAMS WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES

7285 Thorpe Road
Belgrade, MT 59714

(406) 388-0345
FAX: (406) 388-0306
Sec'y: (406) 582-1176

E-mail:

twwm@imt.net

WEB SITE:

www.twwm1.com

President:

Dr. Tom Williams

Vice-President:

Roger Verlee

Board Members:

John Borst
Bobby Glasgow
Ken Lingafelt
Bobby Wilson

February 14, 2005

To Whom it may Concern:

I want to go on record that I am against Bill SB 291. I am not for it's passage as I believe that it takes away the right of the parent to school their child as God leads them. It is *another intrusion into the home which we do not need.* I am asking you as those who represent us in our State Government that this bill will never come to a vote, but if it should I ask that you will vote against it. Thank you.

Sincerely,

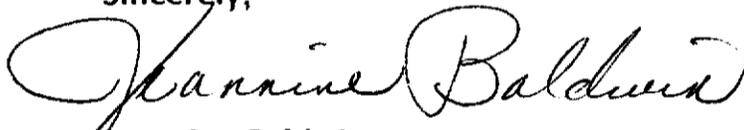

Tom Williams, Evangelist

February 14, 2005

To Whom it may Concern:

I want to go on record that I am against Bill SB 291. I am not for it's passage as I believe that it takes away the right of the parent to school their child as God leads them. It is another intrusion into the home which we do not need. I am asking you as those who represent us in our State Government that this bill will never come to a vote, but If it should I ask that you will vote against it. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Jeannine Baldwin
Belgrade, MT.

Dear Senate Education Committee Member,

Regarding SB 291

This is our first year of homeschooling our children, ages 15 and 12. The number one benefit we have seen is that we have come to know our kids much better in who they are and in discovering their strengths and weaknesses. Because we know them best, we are better able than anyone to guide and help them to reach their potential.

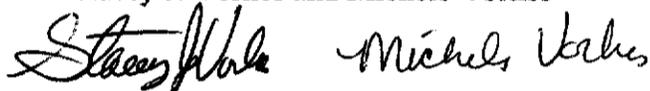
We oppose SB 291 because it is unnecessary. We have neither seen nor heard of any evidence showing that a homeschooling parent needs to be a certified teacher to do the job well nor that increased regulation of homeschoolers by the state results in higher academic achievement.

According to the fiscal note on SB 291, there is no "funding mechanism to get state funds to districts to cover these expenses." Therefore, "this cost would be spread throughout the state and born by local school districts." Since homeschooling is successful under the current law, this would be an unnecessary tax burden on everyone.

We urge the Committee to not pass this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stacey J. Vorhes and Michele Vorhes

Handwritten signatures of Stacey J. Vorhes and Michele Vorhes.