SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 8
DATE 2-18-05
BILL NO. SB-419

For the record, my name is Hannah Bildahl, and I am currently a freshman at Bozeman High School. I live in Big Sky with my family. My little sister attends Ophir, and my parents both work in Big Sky. I ride the bus everyday to and from Bozeman High School.

During my year at Bozeman High School, I've found it hard to meet people, unlike when I was going to school in my own town. I can't do sports; when I've tried, its messes up my academic performance, and I'm exhausted from the day and the three hours on the bus. I am used to the bus ride, but it is boring and hard. But even if I could drive I wouldn't because I feel safer on the bus. I know two boys who drive and a rock slide came down 100 feet away from there car.

If I get sick at school which I did this year, it would have taken so long for my mom to come get me that the school day would have been over. And since Bozeman isn't our town, my parents don't even know anyone to call and have them come and pick me up. There isn't even a school nurse.

Even kids who get houses in town, don't stay there a lot, unless their whole family moves, because it so inconvenient for parents, especially if their parents work or they have young kids in Big Sky.

Because of all this, I have been filling out applications for boarding schools. I want an education where I have opportunities to be with my friends on the weekends and hang out after school and play sports and get a good education at the same time. Unfortunately, I won't be able to go to boarding school unless I get a full scholarship.

High school isn't just learning, it's being with your friends, and playing sports. I would rather stay home with my family and go to school. But I can't do that right now, because Bozeman isn't my home.