

EXHIBIT 21
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SB 152

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Subject: Statement for hearing by Jeanette
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Statement presented at the March 12, 2007 House Education Committee on SB 152 by Jeanette Zentgraf:

I have Permanent Certification to teach the Common Branch subjects (grades K-8) in N.Y. State. I taught full time in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades in N.Y. I have substituted in the kindergarten at Lolo School many times, since moving to MT, 11 years ago.

My opinion is that most 5 year olds are too immature for a full day kindergarten. They do not benefit from a full day of structure. I've seen their frustration and exhaustion in Lolo School. They need the freedom of unorganized play. They also need naps. Lolo School has a full day kindergarten every other day and I think that the administration might decide to go back to the half-day, if SB 152 is tabled. I hesitated to ask the 2 kindergarten teachers for whom I have substituted, if they liked the full day. You see the teachers' union has brought tremendous pressure for an all day kindergarten and I would not want to cause these 2 teachers any trouble.

I strongly recommend that the local school board alone determine whether their schools should have an all day kindergarten or not. In the Three Village School district on L.I., N.Y. when an all day kindergarten was proposed, 36 years ago, hundreds of parents appeared at the Board meeting to request that at least 2 of the 6 schools offer a half-day kindergarten, as the general feeling was that a full day would be too much of a strain for their 5 year olds. The School Board complied with their wishes and half-day kindergartens remained in 2 of the schools.

Before passing SB152 I believe that you should have the following questions answered.
Do first grade teachers in the states that have full day kindergarten experience a better teaching situation? Are the children better prepared for first grade?
Are there higher scores on standardized tests in the 4th grade?
Do the SAT scores in these states improve? I know N.Y. State's didn't when most schools changed over to the all day kindergarten.

Please table this Bill.