EXHIBIT 6
DATE 3/16/07
SB 390

Indian Education for All
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March 15, 2007

House Education Committee
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Testimony in Support of SB 390 (Juneau/Bixby) – Increase Indian Education for All to $50.00 per ANB.

My name is Everall Fox. I am the Coordinator of Indian Education for All for the Billings Public Schools School District 2. SD 2, the largest school district in the state, is home to 16,024 students, 1,157 classroom teachers and 59 administrators, in 29 schools in grades K-12.

The need for continued funding for Indian Education for All is important especially to a district as large as SD 2. Indian Education for All funding in the current biennium has allowed us to begin putting books and media resources in all the school libraries in the district. We are working with classroom teachers to identify other resource needs and are putting those into the District warehouse, so all teachers and schools can have access to them. These include classroom sets of books, DVD's, and wall maps.

Once in place, these resources will give teachers in SD 2 an opportunity to have materials available to them as they prepare lessons inclusive of Montana's Indian tribes. Further funding would allow us to expand our Professional Development training that will allow us to reach more teachers. We would like to bring presenters into schools and classrooms throughout the school year. Also, we have a training module that consists of six sessions that run two hours long each. In these sessions, teachers learn about the tribes in the area, including the Crow, Northern Cheyenne and Fort Belknap tribes. We have had two training modules that have reached 19% teachers in the District. Continued funding would allow us to expand our efforts to have two or more training modules. We would like to hire a Teacher on Special Assignment (TSA) as well to assist teachers directly in the classroom.

Continued funding would allow large schools such as the Billings School District to build a solid base of resources in school libraries and to reach a greater number of classroom teachers. Thank you for your consideration.