SENATE JUDICIARY
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Bill No. HB 312

Dallas Erickson Testimony
House Bill 312
Senate Judiciary Committee
April 4, 2007

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am Dallas Erickson and I represent Montana Citizens for Decency through Law.

In a recent decision the Ninth Circuit court made the most alarming ruling ever in declaring that parental rights stop at the "threshold of the school door." (*Fields v. Palmdale School District)*

It is sad to say that public schools should now come with a warning: "CAUTION! Your parental rights are severed when you drop your child off at school." If the trend continues you will have no input whatsoever or right to object to any instruction or materials, sexual or otherwise, presented to your child during the school day. With the exception of treason, the school will have absolute authority to teach whatever it decides, no matter how objectionable or inappropriate, to any child, at any age, at any time, in any manner.

The fact is that this ruling reflects a trend in Montana and the nation to make parents keep their mouths shut in relation to their children. It seems to reflect a feeling that the state knows better. "Your child belongs to the school so get lost" seems to be a common feeling. This ruling and this trend basically makes the PTA and other organizations of parents who work with the schools pointless.

Please begin this effort to put this amendment into the Constitution. We need to start a trend back to sanity. Back to recognizing that God knew best when He sent Children to live with a Father and a Mother and to be raised by them.

Please give this bill a "do pass". Let the people vote.

Thank you.

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