

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 2/4/2011
HB # 215

HSLDA

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February 1, 2011

The Honorable Scott Reichner
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana Legislature
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59601

Re: House Bill 215

Dear Representative Reichner:

By way of introduction, Home School Legal Defense Association is a national organization which has as its primary purpose the protection of the right of parents to teach their children at home. We presently have more than 81,000 member families in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, with over 400 members in Montana.

I write to you in opposition to House Bill 215, which would change the eligibility for young people to have a driver's license and thereby affect thousands of Montana families, including those who teach their children at home. This bill would prohibit anyone under 18 years old from obtaining or keeping a driver's license unless the person is enrolled in school or has received a high school diploma or GED.

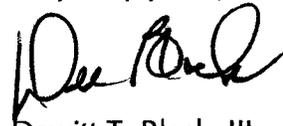
The current compulsory school attendance age in Montana is from 7 to 16 or completion of the eighth grade, whichever is later. House Bill 215 is a driver's license bill which meddles with the education law of the state. It is essentially a back-door effort to raise the compulsory attendance age. This legislation would put the Motor Vehicle Division of the Montana Department of Justice in the business of determining which children are attending school.

Passage of this legislation would adversely affect the freedom that families now have to decide what is in the best interest of a child between the ages of 16 and 18. Some of

these young people who are not academically inclined will benefit more from vocational or other valuable work experience than from being forced to sit in a classroom. If House Bill 215 passes, these young people will have to choose between forcibly remaining in school in order to keep their driver's license and forfeiting their driver's license in order to pursue vocational interests suited to their abilities. This is a choice they should not have to make.

For the foregoing reasons, we ask the House Education Committee to vote against House Bill 215.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dewitt T. Black, III". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dewitt T. Black, III

DTB:etk

cc: Members of House Education Committee
Mr. Steve White
Montana Coalition of Home Educators