

EXHIBIT #6
DATE Jan 25th
242

I would like to start my testimony with a question to the members of this committee. Do you know the date of the last school board election in your town, who ran, and what the issues were?

I'm a retired teacher of 30 years and I can tell you that though federal and state elections are run on education issues and funding when it gets down to the actual school board votes very few people get involved. We've put billions of dollars into school improvement but our schools are not improved, and our drop-out rates are high. If we move our elections to primary day people will realize that school board positions are important and they will have a chance to vote because they won't have missed the vote that happened on an odd date when they weren't paying attention. If people actually pay attention to school issues I believe our schools really will improve.

Barbara Rush
Helena
HB 242