

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK
on February 15, 1991, at 3:00 P. M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Chet Blaylock, Chairman (D)
Harry Fritz, Vice Chairman (D)
Robert Brown (R)
Bill Farrell (R)
Dennis Nathe (R)
Dick Pinsoneault (D)
Mignon Waterman (D)
Bill Yellowtail (D)

Members Excused:

H. W. Hammond (R)

Staff Present: Eddy McClure (Legislative Council).

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Executive Action Taken:

SENATOR WATERMAN announced: The Simms Project has been selected by the National Science Foundation for an on-site visit, March 5. She said that she had been asked by the Mathematics Coalition to request that the Educational and Cultural Resource Committee introduce a resolution that would recognize the visit of March 5 by the National Science Foundation. A grant of several million dollars is involved that would make it possible to plan and update mathematics and provide a school partnership emphasizing the importance of mathematics. Because the deadline for bills has passed, SENATOR WATERMAN MOVED that the Senate Education and Cultural Resource Committee approve this resolution. THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS. MOTION PASSED.

HEARING ON SB 287

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Del Gage, Senate District 5, presented SB 287, an act to establish responsibilities and rights of a parent who provides a home school and rights of a child in Home School. Senator Gage said that SB 287 comes before the committee as a result of the home school law in the state of Montana. He thanked the numbers

of people in home schools from all over Montana who have written to him especially the children. He said that he would like to recommend an amendment to SB 287 on Line 4, Page 1. He wanted to change the word, "establish" to "recognize" since he said that he thought that parental rights were established long ago. SB 287 is asking that the state with this legislation recognize the responsibilities and opportunities of the home school parents.

Proponents' Testimony:

Doug Kelly, Attorney, Helena, Montana, formerly representing home schools in Montana for 10 years instrumental in introducing the first legislature in 1983 for home schools. He said they compromised in 1983 and the private and public educators were not happy with what came out of the legislation. He remembered drafting a bill that he thought was just perfect--that it was common sense and practical--but the bill was quickly defeated, and he said there were many bills like that but he thanked the committee, saying they had shown great leadership in 1983 and with the help of Senators Mazurek, Brown, and several others a bill was drafted known as the Senate Compromise Bill that became the present day law for home schools.

He said that he had found that most home schoolers were very dedicated. He said that there have been a few that home programs didn't work out for some reason and those children have gone into private or public schools. He feels children are usually enriched by the experience of home school education.

Attached: Signatures and exhibits supporting SB 287.

Opponents' Testimony:

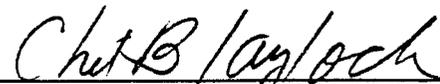
Bruce Moerer, Staff Attorney, Montana School Boards Association, testified in opposition to SB 287.

Jess Long, Montana School Administrators, testified in opposition to SB 287.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Gage thanked homeschoolers for their dedication to the program and thanked the committee for their work on legislation which protects the home schoolers. He urged passage of SB 287.

Adjournment At: 5:00 P. M.



SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK, Chairman



BETSY CLARK, Secretary

CB/bc

This exhibit is a 58-page study. The original is available at the Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT. 59601. (Phone 406-444-4775)

**A NATIONWIDE STUDY OF HOME EDUCATION:
FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS, LEGAL MATTERS, AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Brian D. Ray, Ph.D.

National Home Education Research Institute
25 West Cremona Street
Seattle, Washington 98119

Copyright (C) 1990 by Brian D. Ray
(revised December 1990)

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 1
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

This exhibit is a 36-page study. The original is available at the Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT. 59601. (Phone 406-444-4775)

**HOME EDUCATION IN MONTANA:
FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Brian D. Ray, Ph.D.

National Home Education Research Institute
25 West Cremona Street
Seattle, Washington 98119

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SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 2

DATE 2-15-91

This exhibit is an 87-page collection of letters written by various home school children in support of home schooling. The original is available at the Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT. (Phone 406-444-4775)

"Why I Like Home Education"

A Compilation Of Essays
By Montana's
Home Educated Children

1991

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 3
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Exhibits 4-74 consist of letters in support of SB 287. The originals are stored at the Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59601. (Phone 406-444-4775)

DATE 2-15-91

Senate COMMITTEE ON Education Committee - Bill # SB287

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppos
Mark Hanson	myself & home education	SB287	X	
Jim Donaldson	myself	SB287	X	
LaNell Hanson	myself & home education	SB287	X	
Bob Balyeat	myself & ^{MISSOURI} Home Education	SB287	X	
Vicky Locke	myself + Hr Ed.	SB287	X	
Maggie Stuart	myself & Home Ed.	SB287	X	
Tina Lewis	myself	SB287	X	
Nanette Flang	Montana Coalition of Hom. Ed.	SB287	X	
Elizabeth Nunkel	Meagher County Hom School	SB287	X	
Paul Herber	Montana Coalition of Home Ed.	SB287	X	
Steve White	MT COALITION OF Home Ed.	SB287	X	
Pamela White	myself & home education	SB287	X	
Wendy Hays	MT. Coalition of Home Ed.	SB287	X	
Cathy Brinkhall	myself & home education	SB287	X	
Bill Johnson Family	all home-schoolers	SB287	X	
Virginia B. Baker	self	SB287	X	
Deborah T. Murray	home education	SB287	X	
Arlene Dienl	home education	SB287	X	
Jean A. Palmer	Home Education	SB287	X	
STEPHEN A. REESER	HOME EDUCATION	SB287	X	
DAN BRIMNALL	HOME EDUCATION	SB287	X	
LARRY HERBERT, M.D.	home education	SB287	X	
Dawn Herbert	home education	SB287	X	
Jessica Herbert	home education	SB287	X	
Jiffany Donaldson	home education	SB287	X	
Karen Wolfe	home education	SB287	X	

DATE 2-15-91Senate COMMITTEE ON Education SB 287

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppo
Stephen Webb age 11		SB 287	✓	
Elizabeth Webb age 13		SB 287	✓	
Daniel Webb age 15		SB 287	✓	
Julia Collins		SB 287	✓	
Ruby Collins		SB 287		
Jenia Haeder		SB 287	✓	
Janelle Holder age 14		SB 287	✓	
Cathy Dink		SB 287	✓	
Erin Brown		SB 287	✓	
Bo Stuart	Self	SB 287	✓	
Ruth Boty	self	SB 287	✓	
Thomas McDougall	Self	SB 287	✓	
Eileen Guthrie	self	SB 287	✓	
Patricia Smith		SB 287	✓	
Starshine	self	SB 287	✓	
Nanette Christensen	Montana Coalition of Home Ed.	SB 287	✓	
Jonestia Bower	Montana Coalition of Home Ed.	SB 287	✓	
Robin Stallicher	Ravalli Home Educators	SB 287	✓	
Nora McDougall	Ravalli Home Educators	SB 287	✓	
Cindi L Jarvis	Home Educator	SB 287	✓	
BARBA A. ALLEN	Home Educator	SB 287	✓	
G A Prudden	" "	SB 287	✓	
STEVE MUSICK	" "	SB 287	✓	
Donna Welden	" "	SB 287	✓	
Patricia M. Elias	Home Educator	SB 287	✓	
Terri L. Donaldson	Home Educator	SB 287	✓	

DATE 2-15-91

Senate

COMMITTEE ON Education SB 287

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
Papic Spoiler	Home Education	287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Gibson	Home School Student	287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don Kirk	Home School Student	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yvonne O'Keefe	Home School Grandmother	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lean O'Keefe	Homeschool Student	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jawn O'Keefe	Home School Mom	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Debra Bussell	Homeschool Mom	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Briscoe	Homeschool Dad	287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barbara Vetter	Homeschool Parent	287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shelly Tate	Homeschool Parent	287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patt & Prizer-Walch	Homeschool Parent	287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kimbra Wood	Homeschool Parent	287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lacy Hawkins	Homeschool Parent	287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harold Juncer	Homeschool Parent	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terry & Mary Mackie	Homeschool Advocate	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phil & Joan	Homeschool Parent	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruth Harrington	Home School Grandparent	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ausan Nelson 1001 N. Jackson	Home School & Public School Parent	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Earleen Floyd	Homeschool Parent	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steve T. Shipl	HOMESCHOOL PARENT	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marie Meier	Homeschool Parent	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ellen Bryan	Homeschool parent	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom VanDerVacke	SELF	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David Diehl	Homeschooler	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erna LeMone	Home Ed	"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harby J Smith	Home School Parent	SB287	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DATE 2/15/91

Senate COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SB 287

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppos
Loretta Chapman	Home Schoolers	SB287	✓	
Bill Chapman	HOME SCHOOLERS	HB533		✓
Margaret Hage	" "	SB287	✓	
Annette Friesen	" "	SB287	✓	
Rick FRIESEN	" "	" "	✓	
John Boscoe	" "	287	✓	
Lillette A. Bosma	" "	287	✓	
Evelyn Pearsall	" "	SB 287	✓	
Cheryl Bloom	" "	SB 287	✓	
Margaret Hage	" "	SB 287	✓	
James E. Trott	" "	SB 287	✓	
Lucille H. Trott	" "	SB287	✓	
Laurie T. Bungarner	" "	SB287	✓	
Alice E. Christensen	" "	SB287	✓	
Barbara A. Wickenberg	" "	SB287	✓	
Dianne S. Snyder	" "	SB287	✓	
Nichelle A. Loyette	" "	SB287	✓	
Lynn A. Goyette	" "	SB287	✓	
Dale J. Field	" "	SB287	✓	
Sally Case	" "	SB287	✓	
Deborah Linder	" "	SB287	✓	
Jeanne M. Johnson	Coallatin Valley Home Ed.	SB287	✓	
Jusan L. Smith	Home School Family	SB287	✓	
Roxie Nistler	Home School Family	SB287	✓	
Larry W. Johnson	" " "	SB287	✓	
Nancy J. Dupre	home school family	SB287	✓	

DATE 2-15-91Senate COMMITTEE ON Education SB 287

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppos
Joy Schroeder	Home schools	SB287	X	
Colleen Gibson	Home Educator	SB287	X	
Nell Baar	Home schools	SB287	X	
Ronald Baar	Home Schools	SB287	X	
Larry J. Wolf	Christ's Church Academy	SB287	X	
Bruce Christensen	Home Schools	SB287	X	
Katie Smith	Home Education	SB287	X	
Lori Pilger	Home Education	SB287	X	
Meg Blom	Home Education	SB287	X	
Paul Blom	" "	" "	X	
Cynthia J. Peck	Home Education	SB287	X	
Jesse W. Long	S.A.M.	SB287		X
Charlene J. Howard	Home Educators	SB287	X	
Bruce W. Greer	MSBA	SB287		X
Mary Brown	Home Education	SB287	X	
Tasha Personette	Home Educator	SB287	X	
Asher Diehl	Montana Coalition of HmEds	SB287	X	
Robbie Sperry	home-schooling	SB287	X!!!	
Jillian Barbagello	Home Educator	SB287	X	
Ed Dred	Legislature	SB287	X	
Peter Carparelli	Billings SD #2	SB287	Comments	
Jeff Ryan	Home Education	SB287	X	
Diana + Fred Marshall	Home Education	SB287	X	
Nick Diehl	Home Education	SB287	X	
Matthew White	Home schools	SB287	X	

(This sheet to be used by those testifying on a bill.)

NAME: Bo Stuart DATE: 2/15/91

ADDRESS: Box 941 MCR HeClancy, MT 59634

PHONE: 449-6911

REPRESENTING WHOM? Self

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 287

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENT: Have prepared comments

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15 day of Feb, 1991.

Name: Cynthia J. Peck

Address: 9500 Hwy 324

Dillon

Telephone Number: 681-3127

Representing whom?

Myself and Home Education

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? Amend? Oppose?

Comments:

I strongly support SB 287 and wish to submit written testimony for public record

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15 day of February, 1991.

Name: GAYLON LOHNER

Address: 8000 Lemhi Pass Rd

Dillon MT 59725

Telephone Number: 681-3104

Representing whom?

Myself + Home education

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? Amend? Oppose?

Comments:

i strongly support S.B. 287

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15 day of FEBRUARY, 1991.

Name: STEPHEN A. REESE

Address: 19955 Hwy 91 S.
BILLON, MT. 59725

Telephone Number: 683-6674

Representing whom?

SELF

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? Amend? Oppose?

Comments:

I WOULD LIKE MY WRITTEN TESTIMONY ENTERED
INTO THE RECORD. COPIES ARE PREPARED AND
WILL BE SUBMITTED,

(This sheet to be used by those testifying on a bill.)

NAME: Eileen Guthrie DATE: 2/15/91

ADDRESS: 2 Cloninger Lane, Bozeman

PHONE: 587-4088

REPRESENTING WHOM? self

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 287

DO YOU: SUPPORT? Yes AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENT: I support SB 287.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15 day of FEB, 1991.

Name: LARRY HERBERT M.D.

Address: 4382 LAREDO PLACE
BILLINGS 59106

Telephone Number: 656-7450

Representing whom?

HOME EDUCATION

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? Amend? Oppose?

Comments:

I FULLY SUPPORT THIS BILL
WHICH FURTHER DEFINES RESPONSIBILITIES
AND RIGHTS OF HOME EDUCATORS.

I HAVE BEEN HOME EDUCATING MY
CHILDREN FOR TWO YEARS AND AM
IMPRESSED ^{WITH} THE GOOD RESULTS IN MY
CHILDREN. I AM VERY THOUGHTFUL
IN MY APPROACH AND BELONG TO
A NATIONAL HOME SCHOOL INSTITUTE.

I APPRECIATE MY FREEDOMS IN

THIS ENDEAVOR,

L Herbert

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. _____

DATE _____

BILL NO. _____

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15 day of February, 1991.

Name: Debi Bohner

Address: 8000 Lemhi Pass Rd.

Millon 9775 59725

Telephone Number: 681-3104

Representing whom?

Myself and Home Education

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? Amend? Oppose?

Comments:

I wish to submit my
written testimony in support of
SB 287

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15 day of Feb., 1991.

Name: Linda Holden

Address: HC 73 Box 706
Valier, Mt. 59486

Telephone Number: 279-3326

Representing whom?

Myself

Appearing on which proposal?

S.B. 287

Do you: Support? yes Amend? Oppose?

Comments:

I am for this bill as it clarifies
the law. I homeschooled for 5 years
and my daughter is now in high school
in Valier and an excellent student.
Thank You - Linda

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO.

DATE

BILL NO.

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15th day of FEBRUARY, 1991.

Name: DANIEL BRIMHALL

Address: BOX 159
E. HELENA, MT 59635

Telephone Number: 406-442-5519

Representing whom?
NONE EDUCATION

Appearing on which proposal?
SB 287

Do you: Support? X Amend? Oppose?

Comments:
STATEMENT ATTACHED

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE ~~SENATE~~ SENATE CLERK SECRETARY

EXHIBIT NO. _____
DATE _____

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15th day of February, 1991.

Name: D. Starshine

Address: 704 First

Helena MT 59601

Telephone Number: (406) 449-6663

Representing whom?

Self

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? X Amend? Oppose?

Comments:

Attached

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO.

DATE

BILL NO.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15th day of February, 1991.

Name: Cindi L. Jarvis

Address: 315 Clarke St.

Helena, MT

Telephone Number: 443-3146

Representing whom?

My husband, myself and five children

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? Amend? Oppose?

Comments:

See attached

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

STATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. _____

DATE _____

February 15, 1990

To: Senate Education Committee Members

Re: SB287

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 4

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

My name is Erin Brown. My family and I reside in Ravalli County. I come before you representing myself, my family and several friends who are not able to be here today.

We are very pleased with SB287. This piece of legislation is one which reinforces parental rights and responsibilities. No one can question this bill's constitutionality. I applaud and thank those legislators who have sponsored this bill and those who support it.

We have been involved with home education for over 8 years. Five of those years were spent in Nevada. My husband and I were active legislatively when Nevada began passing restrictive home education laws. We have kept abreast of the home education climate in Nevada.

Unfortunately, each year new regulations are added. This has caused an antagonistic climate between legislators, public school officials and parent educators. The state^{of} Nevada and home educating taxpayers have become opponets in the courtroom as a result of these regulations. Had Nevada implemented a law such as SB287 there would be a sense of cooperation between legislators, public school officials, and parent educators rather than the bitterness and anger they are now experiencing.

Montana has a golden opportunity to create an atmosphere of support and cooperation for her state's home educating families by passing

SB287.

We personally know 40 families who home school. ALL of these who have chosen to educate their children take the responsibility seriously and are constantly reaching for excellence in their child(ren)'s education. I can confidently speak for these friends when I say that we would feel secure with firm legislation which is supportive of our constitutional rights for home education.

I have with me today two of our children. We have studied and discussed at length the founding of America, the Founding Fathers and their stand for freedom, the purpose and meaning of our great constitution. They understand that one of our duties as citizens of the United States is that we are to be watchful that our valued freedoms are not abridged or robbed from us.

Members of this committee, today I present to you my children as your students. In this arena you are their educators. They know that your job as elected officials is to protect our freedoms. By your vote on SB287 you will impart to them the reality of our unique legislative system. They are watching you and listening to you this day. They understand that your support of this bill is support of Americans' freedoms, our families' freedoms and their personal freedoms.

The Brown family urges your support of SB287.

I support Senate Bill 287 giving parents the right to educate their child/children at home if it is deemed necessary.

My husband and I support homeschool because:

1. Good support & guidance from our County Superintendent, through whom we report every year, give a list of curriculum, our 180-day school year schedule, & required inoculations, records.
2. Outstanding curriculum choices from many companies, including the Montana Office of Public Instruction.
3. We have had our children tested every year (through Iowa Basics), & this helps our understanding of what to emphasize in our studies.
4. We can stress the basics of reading, writing, & arithmetic.
5. Extra-curriculum activities that support the educational curriculum.
6. Special educational needs of one child who needs extra guidance.
7. Our children have many times of social interaction that we choose for their good.
8. We can teach good moral, and citizenship values we deem important.
9. We want to include our religious freedoms in how our children are educated.

Charlene F. Howard
7111 Antelope Way

Before man set a footprint in Montana soil, Good-Mother-Lizard, Maisaura knew whose responsibility it was to educate her young. Every deer and bird in Montana knows whose responsibility it is to educate their young. The Creator knows whose responsibility it is for all of his creatures to educate their young.

Humans are probably the only species egotistical enough to try to take this right and responsibility away from those to whom it belongs thinking that they can do a better job. ~~It~~

It is not surprising that research is showing the error of this attempt. A study done in Massachusettes shows that the literacy rate went down after compulsory schooling and never returned to pre-compulsory school levels.

Senate Bill 287 is more than an ordinary law, it is a proclamation of trust and faith in families. It is a recognition by the State of Montana that, like Maisaura and our Creator, Montanans know whose right and responsibility it is to educate offspring.

Debra Buscoe

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 6

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

February 14, 1991
Steven T. and Earleen Lloyd
P.O. Box 2
Boulder, MT 59632

Senate Education Committee
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Senators:

We are asking that you please consider supporting SB287 sponsored by Senator Del Gage. This is a bill that would further define the present home school statutes.

As graduates of the Montana high school and college systems, we know the benefits and privileges of a quality education. We also as Montanans wish to see our children raised, educated and a part of Montana's future.

The reason we home educate our children is twofold;

1) our oldest child was in the public system and it was failing her and
2) our Christian beliefs can not be upheld in the public system as they can be in our home setting. We know and appreciate every Montanan's right to choose a public or private school, as we also appreciate the privilege to raise our children as we see best. Our daughter attended kindergarten and the first quarter of first grade in the public system in Boulder. She is bright, but much to our dismay we found her to be frustrated with the reading program. After much looking into the problem, we discovered that the program was new and did not lean alot to phonics. We know that a good reading background is the basis for a successful school career. She was not getting off to a good start. We pulled her out and reviewed her kindergarten year with her. She is now an avid reader and an above average student who has confidence in her work. Our curriculum is totally Christian based and well exceeds the normal standards of education.

We know two fine people who were educated by the public school system. She did not finish high school, but dropped out. He graduated but does not know how to read or write. We feel that the public system failed these two wonderful people, but we realize that no one system can be 100% perfect for all people. We ask that you consider making it possible for ALL Montanans to always have the choice to choose the way their children are educated.

In closing we would just like to add that we do not expect you to understand why we home school, but just that we wish to keep the freedom to determine and educate our children as we see best. It is a very precious freedom to ALL Montanans!

Sincerely,

Steven T. Lloyd

Earleen Lloyd

Steven T. Lloyd

Earleen Lloyd

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 7

DATE

2-15-91

BILL NO. 280

My name is Vicky Locke. I am a proponent of S.B.287.

Since we registered as a Home School Family in 1983 we've heard complaints about just who is the authority for the Home School students.

Many parents believe their children would do better socially and academically if they continued their instruction at home, rather than going to a public or private school. Studies have proven over and over that these students excel academically and socially. S.B. 287 allows parents of Home School students to pursue their educational activities without interruption.

S.B.287 clarifies the Home School Law [20-50109]. It clearly states who is responsible for the choice of curriculum, method of presentation and evaluation of those choices.

The Montana Home School Law works. When you pass S.B. 287 it will work even better.

Thank you for passing S.B. 287.

Vicky Locke
Box 520
Big Timber
932-5556

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 8
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Committee Chairman and Committee Members:

My husband, a professional engineer, and I strongly support this bill, SB287. We responsibly home educate our five children and feel it is not only our right to do so but our ultimate responsibility that they receive a good education.

Noah Webster, a graduate of Yale, descendant of Pilgrim Governor William Bradford, and a lawyer understood the founding principles of our nation when he composed his 1828 Dictionary.

I'd like to quote from a copy of his 1828 dictionary.

"EDUCATION, n. [L. educatio.] The bringing up, as of a child; instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts, and science, is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties."

As you can see it was meant from the beginning of our nation for parents to have the right and responsibility to educate their children. In Noah Webster's day we had the highest literacy rate that there ever was in our country and home education was an integral part of that.

We urge your support for this bill, SB287.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Jarvis
Cindi Jarvis

Richard and Cindi Jarvis

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 9
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

February 15, 1991

Senate Education Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In a day and age when we see the constant chipping away of our rights as parents and the erosion of the family, it is refreshing to see legislation as SB 287 which reaffirms those rights and strengthens the family. Indeed, as SB 287 plainly states, the responsibility for establishing the educational philosophy for our children belongs with the parents.

We recently moved here from Colorado and one of the deciding factors in that move was the favorable home schooling law that presently exists. SB 287 helps to clarify and strengthen that law and we urge your support.

Sincerely,

Bo Stuart
Maggie Stuart

Bo Stuart
Maggie Stuart

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 10
DATE 2-15-87
BILL NO. 287

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. _____

February 15, 1991

DATE _____

BILL NO. _____

Dear Senator Hammond,

Not many years back we were granted the right to school our children at home. This new law was introduced along with great rejoicing on our part, due to the fact that we were already under pressure to put our children in public school. Thanks to those men who were elected to office that year, we have the freedom to educate our children the way we choose.

Within the last two legislative sessions there has been a movement within the educational system to take our new-found freedoms away. We only hope that with your support this new bill, as it becomes law, will give us the assurance of our rights as Americans to educate and raise our children as we see fit. Yes, wherever freedoms are, they will be abused, but when they cease to exist so will America. Thank you so much for your support. Please vote "yes" to SB-287.

With much concern,

*Bill and Judy
Johnson*

55 Dry Creek Rd.

Boulder, Montana

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 11

59632

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

Thank you for taking the time to gain the information necessary to make a wise decision on Senate Bill 287. I appreciate your time here listening and other time you must spend reading.

I am Dorothy Starshine. I have taught in the Helena school system for 21 years and am currently teaching English at the 7th and 8th grade levels. I have a doctorate from the University of Georgia in Reading Education. Both my thesis and dissertation involved testing.

I am here to support Senate Bill 287 because I feel the parents are the ones who can best evaluate their homeschool students.

I will begin by talking about tests in general. As ubiquitous as tests are, it is difficult to realize that standardized tests have existed less than a century. In that time, they have become big business. Ralph Nader estimates at least 3 to 4 billion dollars are spent annually on standardized tests such as the California Test of Basic Skills. Companies selling these tests, where profit is the motivation, generally make all students appear to be above average.

Tests have two main components: reliability and validity. Reliability is a statistical measure that reports the percentage of time that a student taking that test would have that score. It is an objective measure of a test.

Validity, on the other hand, is a subjective measure of a test. It refers to the degree to which the test measures

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DATE

2-15-91

BILL NO.

287

what the test user thinks it measures. For example, a math test reports how well a student manipulates numbers. A spelling test reports how well a student spells words. Even these simple examples are fraught with difficulties such as how many digits and the range of those digits in the math problems or which words will be tested for spelling.

A stickier wicket is the intelligence test. There is no agreement among professionals as to what intelligence is. Anyone taking a series of intelligence tests will have a range of intelligence scores. It could be called a test of the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in school. Calling it an intelligence test makes intelligence sound like a naturally and genetically endowed gift.

It is generally conceded that all people use less than 5 percent of their brain and all people have an unlimited capacity to learn. People do vary in their rates of learning but to call that variance "intelligence" is to assume that some people have "it"; others don't have "it" and an intelligence test can make that determination.

All tests have a similar problem with the aspect of validity, whether they are called achievement tests, aptitude tests, tests of creative ability, tests of cognitive development, or graduate record exam. The question is: do the tests test what they claim to test. A more significant aspect is: do they test what has been taught.

If schools or the county superintendent administer the tests to homeschoolers, the tests will be invalid. There is

no way that a school or county superintendent could choose a valid test to administer to a homeschool student because to be valid, a test must test what has been taught. Neither the schools nor the county superintendent have a clue as to what has been taught to homeschool students. Homeschool students study a variety of subjects at a variety of levels because homeschools have a small student-teacher ratio. If public school teachers had only 1 to 5 students, they could also diversify their teaching.

Only the parents who are with their students all day everyday know what their students have been studying. Only the parents, selecting among the thousands of tests available to them, can possibly find a test that matches what their students have been learning and thus administer a valid test.

I urge you to give a "Do Pass" on Senate Bill 287 which will allow the parents to administer a valid test to their students--valid because it will test what the students have been taught.

Honorable Chairperson and Committee Members:

I am Roxie Sporleder from Great Falls. I have a Master's Degree in Education and currently hold a Montana Class 1 Teaching Certificate. I have over 20 years' experience in the field of education, working in such capacities as a teacher, an administrator of a private school, an in-service trainer for teachers, and a homeschooler of seven children. Three of my homeschooled children are currently attending college. I am asking you to support Senate Bill 287.

Today I would like to address in particular the provision stating that the parent is the sole authority and is responsible for all decisions regarding the selection of instructional materials, curriculum, and textbooks. I believe parents have both the capabilities and the resources to effectively fulfill these responsibilities.

First of all, we must realize that the homeschool movement is serviced by a full range of professionals. These not only include individuals with Bachelor of Arts degrees, but also those with Master's degrees and Doctoral degrees in Education. Those with advanced degrees are involved in scientific educational research, in curriculum development, in teacher and parent education, and in other administrative and supportive services. With the help of these professionals, including the Hewitt Research Foundation and the National Home Education Research Institute, homeschoolers are on the cutting edge of educational methodology. Some of the current trends in American education are cooperative learning, learning styles instruction, individualized instruction, process writing, and cross-age tutoring. By the very nature of homeschooling itself and by deliberate choice, these are curriculum methods successfully employed by homeschooling parents.

Secondly, many basic books about schooling and homeschooling are available to the parent. The Big Book of Home Learning series by Mary Pride, The Curriculum Manual by Cathy Duffy, The Homeschool Manual by Dr. Ted Wade, professor of education, and Homestyle Teaching and Homegrown Kids by Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore are but a few of these kinds of books. These give clear and detailed guidelines and instructions on

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textbook sources and selection, curriculum reviews, approaches to teaching each subject, and much more information.

Thirdly, parents have access to hundreds of publishers that print for the general public, for the private school, and/or the homeschool. These publishers include the major Christian publishing companies such as Bob Jones Press, A Beka Publishing, and Alpha Omega. In the last Teaching Home, a national magazine for homeschoolers, 93 publishers were reviewed or advertized. Through these publishers, high structured, closely supervised programs are available as well as individual textbooks and materials.

A fourth major resource to parents are the monthly newsletters and magazines published especially for the homeschooler. The Teaching Home, the nationally distributed magazine mentioned earlier, contains a wealth of information to enable parents to succeed. Dr. Ruth Beechick serves as the Educational Consultant for this magazine. Besides the ads for the publishers, textbooks and curriculums are reviewed and rated. "Teaching Methods and Tips" is a regular column that gives practical oideas to make teaching more effective. Each month there is a special section with up to ten articles devoted to a specific teaching area and methodology such as reading, literature, music, hands-on-learning, mathematics, and other curriculum subjects.

A fifth valuable resource to the homeschooling parent are the workshops, conventions, and seminars that are conducted by professionals and experienced homeschoolers throughout the United States. There are at least 24 state conventions, including Montana and over 24 workshop courses offered to parents. The Association of Christian Schools International has invited homeschoolers to their regional conventions and publishing companies such as Bob Jones offer 1 to 5 day seminars for parents.

The sixth resource I wish to mention are the support groups in the local communities. These can be mini-workshops where professionals and homeschoolers present valuable information on curriculum, the teaching-learning process, and other educational subjects, or they are discussions of relevant issues by parents, resulting in parents helping other parents. The purpose of these support groups is to continue the training of the parent in educational areas, to solve particular problems faced in

the education of children, and to share ideas.

In summary, parents have their own professional network to help them set up a curriculum and select methodologies that are best suited to the particular learning style and needs of their children and in accordance with their philosophy of education and religious convictions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roxie Sporleder". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Roxie Sporleder

2215 4th Ave. South

Great Falls, Montana 59405

MM Marie's
Draperies & Tailoring

February 12, 1991

1120 10th ST. WEST
COLUMBIA FALLS, MT 59912
(406) 892-2590
MARIE MORIN

The Honorable Stan Stephens
Governor, State of Montana
State Capitol, Room 204
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Governor Stephens:

As a business person and as a mother, I really appreciate Montana's good homeschooling laws. I worked for the University of Calgary for one and one-half years, and for Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada for almost ten years, before I was married. Now my husband and I really enjoy our children, and we get great joy educating them!

We have our oldest taking Yamaha Group Piano Lessons, which are expensive, but wonderful! He also belongs to a Club and he really loves that - his teacher there says he is a joy and she told me that she is excited about the knowledge he has for his age! The school curriculum we are using is highly rated; beginning in Grade 2 we would send his work in, they would correct it and send back curricula just suited for him! We keep a written record of what we cover for each of the required 180 school days. We will be testing him as well, and will be keeping those records.

We appreciate our existing law which is very adequate, gives the School Superintendents power to act where needed, can be enforced, and costs taxpayers little! I know many in our business community appreciate this educational alternative, and we are working to keep it - MONTANA IS WELL WORTH THE EFFORT!

With warmest regards,

Rick & Marie Morin

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SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 15

DATE 2-15-91

PAGE NO. 207

TO: Chairman Chet Blaylock, Senate Education Committee
FROM: Bryan L. Asay, Montana Coalition of Home Educators
RE: SB 287

February 15, 1991

Current Montana law concerning Home Education is usable, effective and protects the interests of the State of Montana as well as the Family in Montana. The compromise in 1983 was effected by a great deal of discussion and consideration by interested citizens and legislators. The law allows for uniform and objective application of review by the courts in cases which merit investigation and prosecution.

Abuse and neglect are abuse and neglect and should be handled under existing laws suited for protecting the child and the rights of the accused. Compulsory attendance laws should not be viewed as a means for identifying child abuse and neglect. If officials see problems, then they should investigate and prosecute if probable cause exists — otherwise, the parents should be left alone to educate.

Home educators should not be viewed as a suspect class of citizens. Unfortunately, superintendents, principals, teachers, and other officials often consider home education unfavorably in theory and, therefore, consider home education to be abuse or at least neglect in and of itself, regardless of the tremendous success of home education generally.

This bill will refocus the state's attention to the existing law — a Good Compromise. A Vote "for" this bill is **not** a vote against compulsory education or the Montana Constitution. It is a vote to ratify a good compromise — a good alternative that is working very well without undo government intervention.

Parents have a basic and fundamental right to direct the education of their children, coupled with that basic responsibility.

The child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations. *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510, 534-35 (1925); See also *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205 (1972).

A parent's right to educate their child at home is a basic constitutional *liberty* guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution (*Yoder*). **This basic liberty was recognized in 1983 by the Montana Legislature.** With rights and responsibilities comes authority. This is understood by all home educators and many superintendents. However, there has been misunderstanding among others regarding the authority which rests with parents. Many confuse home education with abuse or neglect and attempt to use existing law and this legislative process to conduct warrantless searches in a misguided effort to expose facts to support their unfounded suspicions.

Officials who have a misguided desire to reach into the home simply because the parents educate their children at home should be discouraged from doing so. **Montana's home educators are doing a tremendous job of educating their children. Those parents should be encouraged by SB 287.** Thank you for your consideration.

EXHIBIT NO. 16

DATE 2-15-91

FEBRUARY 15, 1991

HONORABLE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBER.

We would like to submit this written testimony in support of S.B. 287, "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF A PARENT WHO PROVIDES A HOME SCHOOL AND RIGHTS OF A CHILD IN HOME SCHOOL", sponsored by Senator Del Gage.

Please allow us to summarize some of the immediate issues this bill addresses so well, and some of its positive far-reaching results:

- Accurately specifies the Home School parent rights and responsibilities
- Addresses the rights of a Home School child
- Protects parental rights
- Encourages and supports strong family units- the basic building block of a healthy society
- Supports a strong, positive educational system with documented success both in Montana and the United States
- Protects freedom of choice: educational, religious, etc.
- Relieves local school administrators of erroneously perceived responsibility for Home School children
- Reduces the burden on the Public School system, with no change in tax support from Home School parents
- Deters a deliberate drive by the National Educators Association and others to create a monopoly of the education process in our nation.
- Helps foster a democratic society, not a socialistic society such as we see rapidly decaying in Europe and Asia.

We strongly believe that passage of this bill will not only accomplish the obvious provisions of the bill, but will support and protect the strong family units that are so necessary for a strong, moral society. We grieve at the obviously decaying moral situation in our country; the majority of Home School families hold dear the traditional Judeo-Christian values and beliefs that were so instrumental in the forming of our nation, and in making it a great nation. Please support this bill, and give our state and our nation what they so desperately need: well educated children, with strong and positive moral values.

Please feel free to call us with any concerns and questions you may have.

Thank you!

Ron and Nell Baar

Ron and Nell Baar
10787 Little Holland Road
Manhattan, Montana 59741

406-282-7933

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 17
DATE 2-15-91

Daniel B. Brimhall
Box 159
East Helena, Mt 59635
406-442-5519

TESTIMONY AT SB 287 HEARING

Chairman Blaylock, Education Committee Members.

My name is Dan Brimhall, I am Vice President of Operations for American Chemet Corporation in East Helena. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry, and a Master's Degree in Metallurgical Engineering.

My wife, Cathy, and I have been home educating our two children (ages nine and thirteen), for the past three years. Let me dispel a myth about home schooling. It is not easy - sending your children off to public school is easy. It requires a great deal of commitment, planning, and determination. It is expensive, in that we purchase a curriculum, textbooks, and supplies, in addition to paying our taxes to the public system. Cathy does the majority of instruction, instead of pursuing other interests or providing a second income to the household.

However, the rewards are beyond measure. The efficiencies of one-on-one instruction are obvious. There is a great deal of flexibility inherent in the system. For instance, our son particularly developed a love for mathematics from the start. He finished the first grade curriculum rapidly, and went on to finish the second grade level of study in math the first year. This would not have been possible in public school, and perhaps he might have become bored, and lost his zeal for math. We are finding that our children do not fit some artificial standard of expected performance. Like all of us, they have strengths and weaknesses in any given discipline of study. At home, we can recognize this, and gear their instruction accordingly.

Home education is a family-oriented activity. We are not relying on some stranger to be sensitive to our children's needs. We are able to teach our own value system, and guide our children's development in a way that no public school teacher would ever be able to do. We approach life as our school. Learning is an on-going experience, and we can learn where ever we are, no matter what we are doing. Even something as simple and routine as going to the grocery store is part of school, learning how to read and interpret labels, learning how to compute the best buy, learning how to count, and make change.

We have found that by using what we learn in our daily life, the children begin to see the value and usefulness of their studies. And this fuels their desire to learn more.

Our home education experience is something we cherish very much. We interact with other home school families on a regular basis, and

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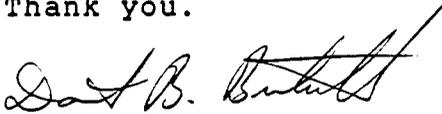
have found them to be very dedicated to providing their children with a quality education.

People often ask us "What about the socialization of your children?" This point is one of the main reasons for our choosing to home school. Our daughter was experiencing a great deal of difficulty at public school. There were conflicts on the playground. We were told that it is routine for one adult to supervise 300 children at recess. Clearly, one adult cannot even begin to keep track of 300 children. The "socialization" of children under such circumstances is left to peer pressure, misinformation about important topics, and the often-expressed hostility and cruelty of children as they attempt to relate in such a chaotic environment. Our children have regular contact with others in a controlled environment, usually with an abundance of adults present to supervise and help. Our children look to us, not their peers, for advice and counsel.

We are asking you to vote in favor of SB 287, as we are very concerned about preserving our freedom to educate our children in a family atmosphere. We are concerned about the intrusion of government into our family affairs. The present law concerning home education, enacted in 1983 is a good law, which works, but one which we feel needs clarification. HB 287 provides this clarification.

Please consider all the evidence carefully, and support HB 287.

Thank you.



Daniel B. Brimhall

WHAT "HOME BASED EDUCATION" MEANS TO OUR FAMILY.

It has frequently come to my attention that people who educate at home -- both parents and students -- see themselves in some way as doing what people in traditional schools do. For a few, this is not too far from wrong; for most others, it's far from the truth. There are no parallels between what happens in institutional public and private schools and what goes on in most homes, the base from which parents educate their own students. Perhaps the only similarity is that children are involved in both home and school settings; there the comparison ends.

Trying to make comparisons is almost impossible. Both settings involve students, but that's as far as the comparison can go. This is especially true in homes where parents and students learn by doing and following their own interests; where topics (gardening, Mars, dancing, holy days, music, dinosaurs...) are more important than "school" subjects (spelling time, math time, science time...), and where classes are not run by the clock, as in -- the bell rang; go to your next class.

It is clear that we must use an entirely different vocabulary to explain what home education is all about. For this reason, I have stopped using the erroneous phrase, "home schooling". The words "home based education" are much more meaningful and more accurate.

The day to day approach used in our home is identical to that which is used in Clonlara's campus day school; both are fashioned along the lines of the British Infant Schools and of other innovative educational settings where organic learning is practiced.

Our approach is similar in all major respects to the approach used in some schools in Canada, England, and the U.S. and in numerous private schools. It has been recommended and acclaimed by such well-known educators/authors as Joseph Pearce, David Elkind, Jerome Bruner, John Holt, Herb Kohl, Jonathon Kozol, Raymond Moore, and Susan S. Macaulay.

The educators previously mentioned have concluded, that children can successfully develop strong academic skills, a desire to learn, a love of learning and a knowledge of how to learn. This is best effected by allowing students as much exposure as possible to a wide range of experiences. Seeing, doing, talking about it, helps secure the information and instill the wisdom necessary to make use of it at appropriate times. Learning is not limited, then, to a certain time span. It doesn't only take place in a certain place. It isn't confined to only books or films or lectures.

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Students who learn in natural, unpressured ways learn a most important lesson that cannot be learned by reading books or being instructed: they learn to feel good about themselves, to have a realistic image of themselves as worthwhile, loveable, loving human beings who are able to act and to accomplish, to contribute to their families and their community.

When students are not pitted against one another and compared with one another, they mature by honing their own strengths and attacking their own weaknesses -- by succeeding and making mistakes without fear of being censured and humiliated.

Despite the fact that Clonlara's curriculum lists subject areas (reading, math, etc.) separately, our program is, in actual fact and practice, thoroughly integrated. The day is not divided into "spelling time", "math time", etc., as in traditional schools; instead, the TOPIC being studied/discussed INCLUDES spelling and reading and math skills. For example, a trip to Yellowstone Park involves all of the senses (sight, smell, sounds, touch, hearing). It can include academic skills (reading, writing, spelling, discussing, counting, categorizing), too.

Experience has taught that children who learn in this "integrated day" manner can sometimes be far ahead, academically speaking, in some areas and not so far ahead in others. The "catching up" time, as it were, generally comes when a child reaches junior high school years.

The same tools for evaluation -- tests of grade level basic skills, certain achievement tests, e.g. -- cannot adequately measure the growth of students who learn in the organic, ungraded, hands-on fashion described here. Those tools were, after all, designed for institutional graded schools.

Another notable difference between the traditional, graded approach to learning and the organic one lies in the use of textbooks and workbooks. Students who are being taught according to the "integrated day" approach use textbooks as supplementary materials, at best. The major focus is on manipulative materials -- games, counting apparatus, book making, arts and crafts, telescopes, microscopes, toys, to name a few. Experiencing the world around them is of equal importance to the use of manipulatives for these students. Trips to the library, museums, farms, zoos, workplaces, mountains, stores, etc., are a vital part of the curriculum.

Textbooks are mentioned in Clonlara's curriculum, but they are meant to be regarded mainly as reference materials, not as required tools. The books most frequently used in ungraded schools are encyclopediae, home library books, town library materials, newsletters, and childcraft sets/kits, comics, National Geographic magazines, and the like.

Our family education is patterned after Clonlara and we have been involved with their "Home Based Education Program" for several years. Clonlara is located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Pat Montgomery is the director.

Barda A. Allen *Chudler*

It is apparent to many of us that we are at the crossroads of education in this country.

In the past few years some individuals who have been innovative in education have come under fire by those in the educational establishment. Much of that has been fueled by legitimate concern and fear, Some by the misunderstanding of the authority of public officials and unfortunately, much of it by vindictive and hostile attitudes towards unconventional forms of education. Today before us is an opportunity to clarify the responsibility of those who choose a different path in education and to go on record in support of a concept which shows great promise.

Today's situation is not unlike one earlier in this century when propositions were made to build hydroelectric dams to provide power, flood control and recreational opportunities to the American public. At that time many stood in opposition, expounding the horror stories of thousands of lives lost and millions of dollars in property damage as they predicted the imminent disaster of these dams collapsing. A few brave individuals staunchly stood up in favor of these proposals and now these facilities have allowed us to become the most powerful nation on the face of the earth. At a time when public education seems to be struggling on every front, it is a time not for limiting our options but for expanding our horizons.

Public education is in need of new ideas, thoughts and competition. We shouldn't limit the possibilities. Neither can we afford to listen to those who would speak doom to home education and would seek to severely limit it.

Having said all this, when education finances are strapped to the limit, home education is an innovation that has a proven success using individual family's financial commitments to the tune of \$200-\$500 per child. It seems that home education should be encouraged, not discouraged. Please vote for SB 297!

David and Arlene Diehl
Box 938
East Helena. MT 59635

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 20
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 297

TESTIMONY OF BRENDA NEAL
Augusta, Montana

I am Brenda Neal, a country girl from Augusta. I am a 1989 graduate of a Montana home school and presently a second-year pre-law student at Magdalen College in Bedford, New Hampshire. I wish to share my experiences and beliefs with the Montana Legislature and why I am in favor of SB 287 as it takes into consideration home education.

Senate Bill 287 assures:

(1) flexibility and individuality. The parent/teacher has the indisputable advantage of recognizing the individual differences in his/her children and responds accordingly, using a variety of instructional skills, teaching the students to work independently, and motivating them. The parent/teacher also can take advantage of community resources outside the home to broaden the student's knowledge.

(2) responsibility and performance assessment. The parent/teacher is committed to his child's education. He/she determines the academic curriculum, creating many paths to knowledge, helping the student to pose and solve problems on his own, and managing and monitoring the student's achievement and understanding of how the various subjects are linked to other areas of learning. I agree, as long as the home-educated student is enrolled in an active home school curriculum, that no external assessment of instruction or accountability is desired, required, or constitutionally authorized.

I began home education in the seventh grade. The only national test I had taken was the SAT, the college entrance exam. I scored above the national and state average, thus opening all doors for my college education. This can all be attributed to my home education, since before that I was a student who hated school and especially reading. My parents saw that I lacked the necessary skills to read well, and since my second year of home schooling, I began to enjoy reading even for pure leisure. School was not the task it had been but was a pleasurable challenge to learn. If my mother had not taught me to read well, I would never have attained good grammar skills or a wide vocabulary, which I also attribute to my Latin course. Because of my English and grammar skills, I was recently asked by my English college professor to tutor other students in my class.

I know that my home education evoked my facile acceptance to all the colleges to which I applied and the scholarships awarded to me. One of the colleges where I was accepted is rated in Barron and Peterson's Guide to Prestigious Colleges in the top 4% of competitive colleges in the nation. The college I am attending is a private college in a Boston suburb, and I am planning a career in law.

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Perhaps you are asking yourselves, how did she adjust socially, especially coming from a rural Montana home, twenty miles to the nearest community, to a major college in an eastern city, no less?! Well, the adjustment was smooth, with absolutely no problems at all. I fell right into the circulation of social and academic life. I associate with a large circle of colleagues and am always open and willing to meet and talk with anyone. As for extra curricular activities, I am an active member of a volleyball team and a guard on the college girls basketball team. I have also joined one of the most outstanding drama clubs in the Boston area. This is an art from which I derive much pleasure. Along with drama, I belong to a seventy-person choir where I sing alto, and I have an hour and a half practice three times a week in addition to my academic load.

I kindly request that the Montana Senate Education Committee take my testimony into deep consideration. Please accept my sincere thank-you for your time and consideration.

Brenda Neal

Brenda Neal

2/15/91

[Date]



Mrs. Danielle Neal
P.O. Box 293
Augusta, Montana 59410

19 January 1991

Dear Mrs. Neal;

In reply to your letter, I would be pleased to pass on my assessment your daughter's academic performance and her social adjustment to college life.

As you know, the curriculum at Magdalen College is a four year integrated program based on the great books. Students read the primary texts of the Western tradition, beginning with Homer and concluding with Heisenberg. In addition, the program at Magdalen College includes four years of mathematics and three years of science. There are no electives. The Magdalen College program is taught by the seminar method of instruction, which requires that each student be actively engaged in class discussion.

This demanding academic program would make any weaknesses in Brenda's prior education obvious. I am pleased to report that Brenda is an active participant in class discussions and that overall she is doing well academically.

As far as I know Brenda had no difficulty adjusting to college life. I know for certain that she has many friends and a rich social life at the College.

If Brenda is a representative Montana home-schooler, then I would conclude that home-schooling in Montana is a success.

With my very best regards,

Sincerely,

George Stanciu, Ph. D.
Academic Dean

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EXHIBIT NO. 22

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

In response to, and concerning Senate Bill 287, presently before the committee, involving the clarification of the rights and responsibilities of home schooling families, who are currently protected under home education enactments, I would like to testify.

I entered school in the public grade school and completed the first and second grades. My parents disliked the atmosphere and curriculum because of the lack of Biblical principles. I attended a Christian school for four years and then was home schooled for six years. I realize how fortunate I am to have been home educated and I have had absolutely no desire to return to the public system.

Home schooling has given me the opportunity to learn far more than I ever would have in the public system. I have had the occasion to be employed by a Certified Public Accountant, giving extra assistance during tax season, and also have had on-the-job training as a dental assistant. These two jobs have given me excellent experience and exposure.

I have seen many of the products of public education; it is not pleasing or encouraging. I have not been prematurely subjected to the uneducational, and in many cases, detrimental circumstances that most students encounter every day. Consequently, I have grown stronger in my faith and walk with Jesus Christ, and been able to achieve more scholastically.

I firmly, and with all solidity, believe that the administration of education is the God-given right and responsibility of parents --not the State-- over their children. It is also the God-given right and responsibility of the State to support, uphold, and protect the parents in their efforts to bring up Godly children. It is a truly sorrowful aspect seeing our nation seek to undermine, frustrate, and obliterate home education. This would be a shameful disgrace to our country, to all countries, and to all that "We the People" stand for and are founded on.

It is a great privilege to be a citizen of the state of Montana, and to have its support and protection for home education. We are one of the few states that still advocates this fundamental and I sincerely hope and pray that we retain that freedom with all circumspection.

Sonesta Bower
125 Park Avenue
Kalispell, Montana 59901

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 23

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

Senate Education Com.
Capitol Complex,
Helena, Mt.

Dear Chairman and Members:

Feb. 15/91

I am a home educated student and as such, I feel it is not only my right but it is my duty to express my support for Senate Bill #287.

It is my belief that my education is my parents responsibility. My parents love me enough to see that my education is mixed with not only school requirements but also with moral and social standards which meet with our spiritual beliefs.

I love being home schooled and I feel that my mother has done a good job with me, my sisters and my brother. I believe that you can see that I have grown spiritually, scholastically as well as morally and socially.

Senate Bill 287, will allow us to follow our convictions and to continue in our home school relationship, so I am asking you to vote in favour of this Bill so that me and my sisters and brother can continue to be taught in the presence of our mothers love.

I wish to thank this committee for allowing me to speak before them and to express my eleven year old thoughts upon this matter, Thanks!

With Much Respect,

Asher Diehl

Asher Diehl, age 11

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 24
DATE _____
BILL NO. _____

"Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim. True education means more than the pursual of a certain course of study. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world....."1

My name is Nanette Christensen. I am twenty years old and a sophomore in college. Elementary education is my major and I have maintained a 3.54 G.P.A. I have lived in Montana for nearly six years and I am proud to be a Montanan!

My formal education, kindergarten through grade twelve, was accomplished via "home school". My father was a welder by trade, and mother an executive secretary. My creative and highly motivated teacher was my mother. For the first few years she worked closely with a school teacher to be certain she was giving me an adequate education. She had me tested yearly in grades one through eight.

My parents endeavored to involve me in numerous extra-curricular activities. Mother taught me to sew at a very early age, and at the age of seven I completed my very own dress for church. I later took tailoring lessons. At the age of sixteen, I tailored a man's three piece wool suit. Piano, violin and voice lessons

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 25

DATE _____

BILL NO. _____

were also part of my education. These I paid for with money I had earned selling crafts, sewing, and other jobs.

However, I'm not here to tell you about my personal achievements. I'm here to share what a blessing home education can be.

Parents who choose to home school do so with the best interests of their children in mind. The basic unit of our society is the family. You do not need to be told that there are many forces at work to destroy the family. I believe that the freedom for parents to choose to educate their own children with the ideals they hold dear is a very sacred, very special privilege. This, and many other freedoms, have made Montana great. Removing this freedom would come at a fearful cost. My college psychology professor in Virginia expressed several times in his classes that Montana has the best homeschooling law in the nation. We are well known!

My family is originally from North Dakota. We were offered ten acres of land there as a gift from relatives. But, we left that and close family ties because of the intolerance of their home-school law at that time. We moved to Montana, purchased land and built a home, and now own a prospering health food store and Christian book store in Columbia Falls.

Parents who choose the homeschooling alternative are not delinquent people. They are people who have observed the lives of men and

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 26

DATE _____

women who made the history of our country so rich and our present life what it is. They remember that John Quincy Adams, George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln were homeschoolers. Even some inventors - like the Wright brothers - were home schoolers. The light we are using today can be traced to the ingenious Thomas Edison - a homeschooler. Even one of our present Supreme Court justices - Sandra Day O'Connor - was at one time a home-schooler. I haven't even mentioned that the Saviour of our world - Jesus Christ - was taught by His parents.

We have a choice to make. Are we going to limit the freedom of education by parents, and give this authority solely to the state? The Greek pagan government did and miserably failed. Or are we going to protect the God-given freedom of choice?

I thank you for your time!

FOOTNOTES

1. E. White, Education, p. 13
Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountainview, CA (1903)

Senate Education Committee
2-15-1991

Re: SB 287

Submitted by Kent Gilge, Montana Coalition of Home Educators

Mr. Chairman and Committee members. Some educators have expressed concern about the ability of homeschooled children to be successful in post secondary education. I have compiled a partial list of the colleges and universities in which Montana homeschooled children have been accepted or are currently enrolled. They include the following:

Montana State University
Texas A & M
Northern Montana College
Rocky Mountain College
LeTourneau University
Wheaton College
Thomas Aquinas College
Seattle Pacific University
Christian Heritage College
Liberty University
Standford University
University of Southern California
Wiemar College
Berkeley
MIT
Magdalen College, N.H.
University of Oregon
Walla Walla College

A number of colleges, such as Boston College, Northern Montana College, and Harvard have had such wonderful experiences with homeschooled students that they are actively soliciting and recruiting them.
(Letters attached)

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 27

DATE _____

FILE NO. _____

Boston University

Office of Admissions
121 Bay State Road
Boston, Massachusetts 02215



December 17, 1990

To homeschooled students:

Boston University welcomes applications from homeschooled students. We believe students educated primarily at home possess the passion for knowledge, the independence, and self-reliance that enable them to excel in our intellectually challenging programs of study.

Two homeschooled students currently attend Boston University. One is a sophomore in the College of Liberal Arts, the other a freshman in the College of Engineering. Both students are doing very well. Their educational and personal transitions from homeschooling to the University are a proven success.

If you are a homeschooled student interested in attending college or simply concerned to know more about your options in higher education, we would be pleased to talk with you. To get in touch with us, please call or write to Kathy Mackin, Assistant Director Of Admissions (telephone 617 353-4806). An interview can also be arranged. Our address:

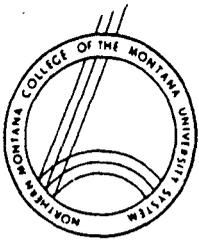
Boston University
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
881 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,


George A. Schiller, Jr.
Director of Undergraduate Admissions

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 28
DATE _____
BILL NO. _____



NORTHERN MONTANA COLLEGE

Montana University System
HAVRE, MT 59501
(406) 265-3704

February 13, 1991

Office of
Admissions

Mr. Kent Gilge, Chairman
Montana Coalition of Home Educators
P.O. Box 654
Helena, MT 59624

Dear Mr. Gilge:

Thank you for your letter dated February 10, 1991. For organization's sake, let me respond to your questions singularly.

Admissions requirements for home schooled students are quite simple. The student must make arrangements to take the G.E.D. examination and, upon successful completion of the examination, are allowed to begin college as a student under conditional status. Conditional status essentially requires the student to enroll for a prescribed credit load and, after completing these courses without being placed on academic probation, are removed from conditional status and are considered regular students.

The obvious implication is that no matter how well educated the home school student, current policy will treat that student as if he/she had not completed a high school education. This is true even if the student has completed the ACT or SAT examination with high marks.

Your second question asked what my experience with home educated students has been. I am currently familiar with five students who have applied for admission at Northern Montana College who were home taught. Four of these students are currently enrolled and are doing quite well. Two of the four are well above average. The fifth student was offended by the G.E.D. requirement and did not matriculate.

I have no reservations at all about admitting home educated students. To the contrary, I would like to see the G.E.D. requirement dropped and replaced by an appropriate ACT or SAT score to verify the quality of the home education. Based on what I've seen, I'm confident that these students are prepared for the challenge.

If I may be of further assistance, please feel free to write again or call me at (406)265-3704.

Sincerely,

Kelly Palmer
Director of Admissions

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 29
DATE _____
BILL NO. _____

xc: file

TESTIMONY OF BRENDA NEAL
Augusta, Montana

I am Brenda Neal, a country girl from Augusta. I am a 1989 graduate of a Montana home school and presently a second-year pre-law student at Magdalen College in Bedford, New Hampshire. I wish to share my experiences and beliefs with the Montana Legislature and why I am in favor of SB 287 as it takes into consideration home education.

Senate Bill 287 assures:

(1) flexibility and individuality. The parent/teacher has the indisputable advantage of recognizing the individual differences in his/her children and responds accordingly, using a variety of instructional skills, teaching the students to work independently, and motivating them. The parent/teacher also can take advantage of community resources outside the home to broaden the student's knowledge.

(2) responsibility and performance assessment. The parent/teacher is committed to his child's education. He/she determines the academic curriculum, creating many paths to knowledge, helping the student to pose and solve problems on his own, and managing and monitoring the student's achievement and understanding of how the various subjects are linked to other areas of learning. I agree, as long as the home-educated student is enrolled in an active home school curriculum, that no external assessment of instruction or accountability is desired, required, or constitutionally authorized.

I began home education in the seventh grade. The only national test I had taken was the SAT, the college entrance exam. I scored above the national and state average, thus opening all doors for my college education. This can all be attributed to my home education, since before that I was a student who hated school and especially reading. My parents saw that I lacked the necessary skills to read well, and since my second year of home schooling, I began to enjoy reading even for pure leisure. School was not the task it had been but was a pleasurable challenge to learn. If my mother had not taught me to read well, I would never have attained good grammar skills or a wide vocabulary, which I also attribute to my Latin course. Because of my English and grammar skills, I was recently asked by my English college professor to tutor other students in my class.

I know that my home education evoked my facile acceptance to all the colleges to which I applied and the scholarships awarded to me. One of the colleges where I was accepted is rated in Barron and Peterson's Guide to Prestigious Colleges in the top 4% of competitive colleges in the nation. The college I am attending is a private college in a Boston suburb, and I am planning a career in law.

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 30

DATE _____

BILL NO. _____

Perhaps you are asking yourselves, how did she adjust socially, especially coming from a rural Montana home, twenty miles to the nearest community, to a major college in an eastern city, no less?! Well, the adjustment was smooth, with absolutely no problems at all. I fell right into the circulation of social and academic life. I associate with a large circle of colleagues and am always open and willing to meet and talk with anyone. As for extra curricular activities, I am an active member of a volleyball team and a guard on the college girls basketball team. I have also joined one of the most outstanding drama clubs in the Boston area. This is an art from which I derive much pleasure. Along with drama, I belong to a seventy-person choir where I sing alto, and I have an hour and a half practice three times a week in addition to my academic load.

I kindly request that the Montana Senate Education Committee take my testimony into deep consideration. Please accept my sincere thank-you for your time and consideration.

Brenda Neal

Brenda Neal

2/15/91

[Date]



Mrs. Danielle Neal
P.O. Box 293
Augusta, Montana 59410

19 January 1991

Dear Mrs. Neal;

In reply to your letter, I would be pleased to pass on my assessment your daughter's academic performance and her social adjustment to college life.

As you know, the curriculum at Magdalen College is a four year integrated program based on the great books. Students read the primary texts of the Western tradition, beginning with Homer and concluding with Heisenberg. In addition, the program at Magdalen College includes four years of mathematics and three years of science. There are no electives. The Magdalen College program is taught by the seminar method of instruction, which requires that each student be actively engaged in class discussion.

This demanding academic program would make any weaknesses in Brenda's prior education obvious. I am pleased to report that Brenda is an active participant in class discussions and that overall she is doing well academically.

As far as I know Brenda had no difficulty adjusting to college life. I know for certain that she has many friends and a rich social life at the College.

If Brenda is a representative Montana home-schooler, then I would conclude that home-schooling in Montana is a success.

With my very best regards,

Sincerely,

George Stanciu, Ph. D.
Academic Dean

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 31

DATE _____

BILL NO. _____

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME Mrs. Virginia Bert Baker BUDGET _____

ADDRESS Rt. 1 Box 297 Van, Texas 75790 *

WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? self

SUPPORT SB 287 OPPOSE _____ AMEND _____

COMMENTS: attached

* (formerly from Fairfield, MT. -
testified during 1983 hearings)

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 32

DATE _____

BILL NO. _____

19955 Highway 91 South
Dillon, MT 59725

February 14, 1991

The Legislative Educational Committee Members
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Committee Members,

We feel that as parents we have the responsibility to see that our children are educated and we believe that home education is the method to accomplish this. We do not see home schooling as an excuse for truancy but rather as a viable authentic alternative to public education. We do not take our responsibility lightly as we desire the highest quality education for our children.

We have observed several Montana families who have successfully home educated their children under the present system and it works very well. Since our children are just entering school age, we are greatly looking forward to home educating our children in Montana. Montana laws presently regulating home education are favorable to the meeting of our responsibility.

Therefore, we strongly support the signing and passing of SB287 sponsored by Senator Gage. Today we have come to appeal to our legislative body to uphold our freedom as Montanans to home educate our children.

Thank You for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Stephen and Susan Reeser

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 12

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

Testimony of
Mrs. Virginia Birt Baker
 Van, Texas (formerly of Fairfield, Montana)

Virginia Birt Baker
 6-2-15-91

I home-schooled four children during the years 1972-1987. Five of those years (1979-1983) were in Montana. Following is a chart briefly listing some of the academic achievements of the four now-grown children. Not included are their many extra-curricular activities, honors, awards, elected offices, and achievements, such as Chris's high GPA, his times on the Dean's list, or his record as graduate assistant to the Dean of Agriculture at Texas A&M and class president at TCC; or the fact that Matt was chosen to live with the Chancellor of Texas A&M in the guest house on his estate and in his-home during the numerous times he and his family are out of town; or the fact that Julie is the owner of a U.S. patent, the result of one of her creative inventions; or the fact that Nancy is a world traveller of many continents.

NAME	NUMBER OF YEARS HOME SCHOOLED	GRADES	POST-SECONDARY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS	PRESENT STATUS	FUTURE PLANS
Julie	6	7-12	One semester, intensive phonics education, Xavier University, Cincinnati OH.	Housewife, mother; homeschooling three children.	Same.
Chris	7	6-12	BS: biomedical science, TX A&M, College Station TX; MS: nutrition, Texas A&M.; Advanced post-graduate courses in nutrition, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA; Doctoral candidate, chiropractic/medical, Texas Chiropractic College, Pasadena TX.	Student, interning VA Hospital, Houston TX, specializing in nutrition, rheumatism, and neurology.	Doctor/chiropractor/nutritionist.
Nancy	9	4-12	Three years accounting and business management, Covenant College, Lookout Mtn. TN and University of Texas, Tyler TX.	Married. Manager of travel agency, Lindale TX. Parttime undergraduate student.	CPA, then fulltime housewife and mother, parttime CPA.
Matthew	13	K-12	Senior, agricultural engineering, Texas A&M, specializing in food processing.	4th year undergraduate student; reserve police officer with City of Bryan Police Dept.	MS in food science and technology & business management.

P.O. Box 305

Whitehall, MT 59759

February 13, 1991

Senate Education Committee

Capitol Station

Helena, MT 59601

Dear Members,

I am an Home School Educator
and an advocate of Senate Bill 287.

I am writing to respectfully
request your full support concerning
this vital bill. Thank you very
much.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Linda Freeman

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO.

33

DATE

2-15-91

REL NO.

207

Andrea Darling
2910 W. Mac Donald Dr.
Billings, MT 59102

February 13, 1991

Montana Senate Education Committee
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Senate Education Committee members:

I am writing in regard to SB 287 which would clarify existing law in establishing rights of parents to establish home schools. As a home schooling parent I have seen firsthand the many benefits of children having the freedom to explore and learn at their own pace as is allowed at a home school. I ask you to vote for SB 287 to further clarify the rights of parents to educate their own children as established by Montana State law and the constitution.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 34
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Sincerely,
Andrea Darling

February 12, 1991
Steven T. and Earleen Lloyd
P.O. Box 2
Boulder, MT 59632

The Honorable Chet Blaylock
Senate Chambers
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Senator Blaylock:

This week you will be presented with SB287 sponsored by Senator Del Gage.

This bill would give the responsibilities and rights of a parent in a home school in Montana more precise outlines than that which we now have in a lesser degree under the present home school statutes. It will clarify those responsibilities and eliminate any confusion between county superintendents and parents.

We support this bill and pray that you will also when it is presented to you. We realize that our school systems are so very important to the future of our children. We know the value of a good education as we are both high school and college graduates of the Montana school system.

We want the best for our children as do most Montanans. Because of the freedom to choose in this state, we chose to home school in support of our Christian beliefs. We appreciate the freedom to choose what we feel is best for our children. We also respect the rights and wishes of those who choose to use the public school systems or private schools. We would like to see this freedom protected for ALL Montanans now and in the future.

Please consider supporting SB287 this week. May God Bless Your work!

Sincerely yours,

Steven T. Lloyd
Earleen Lloyd

Steven T. and Earleen Lloyd

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 35
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287



KWIK-KOPY PRINTING

702 WEST MAIN STREET
BOZEMAN, MT 59715
(406) 586-8553

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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE 2-15-91

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

FROM Dr. + Mrs. Leonard Ramsey
64 Hitching Post Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715

FAX# 406-587-1813

TO Senate Education Committee
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

FAX# 444-4105

FOR ANY PROBLEMS WITH THIS
TRANSMISSION CONTACT US AT :
FAX# 406-587-1813 OR
PHONE# 406-586-8553

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 36
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287



Senate Education Committee
 Capitol Station
 Helena, MT 59620

2-14-91

Dear Senate Education Committee:

We would like you to know that we firmly support Senate Bill 287. We, as parents concerned for and committed to our children, take seriously our job to give our children the best upbringing and education possible. We know that this is our responsibility, right, and privilege. We look to you, our governmental representatives, to help us continue in providing our children with the best education and loving home possible. We trust that you do understand that this is the parent's responsibility and right.

If you have any questions or would like to come and see a "Home School" in action, please call us at 586-7967.

Sincerely,
 Cindy R Ramsey
 Cindy Ramsey -
 certified teacher
 Leonard Ramsey
 Leonard Ramsey M.D.
 64 Hitching Post Rd.
 Bozeman, MT

~~SENATE EDUCATION
 EXHIBIT NO. _____
 DATE _____
 BILL NO. _____~~

PO Box 228
Whitchell, MT 59754
Feb. 12, 1991

Senate Education Committee
Senate Chambers
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Committee Chairman + members,
Please support SB 287.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Mike Weldon

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 37

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

February 15, 1991

Senate Education Committee
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Senate Education Committee:

We would like to register our vote in favor of SB 287.
We like the idea of the freedom of choice in educating our
children. Besides the quality education homeschoolers
receive, we also save taxpayers money.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Steve and Kaleen Brock
HC 68 Box 8472
Glendive, MT 59330

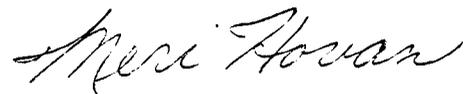
SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 38
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

February 13, 1991

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to request your support for Senate Bill #287 which you will be discussing this Friday Afternoon. I have home-schooled my children for the past four and a half years. I take the educating of my children very seriously, and I do a very good job. If you are interested, I would like for you to see the curriculum I use. I can come to Helena at your convenience. I am very proud of our home school and I thank God daily for the privilege to do so. I truly do count it a privilege and use it to illustrate to my children that it is another of the many reasons I am glad we live in America. Again, I ask for your support of this bill.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Meri Hovan
45 Sunny Slope
Whitehall, Mt 59759

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 39

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

February 11, 1991

R.R. 3, Box 380
Conrad, MT. 59425
(406) 278-5341

Education Committee
Senate
Room 402
Capitol Station
Helena, MT. 59620

Re: Home Education Clarification Bill (SB287)

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

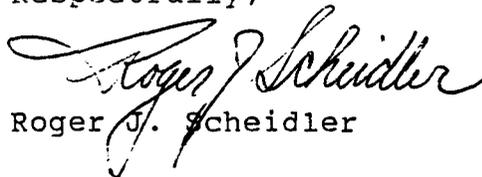
I want to submit my earnest encouragement to you as you review SB 287. It represents an imperative consistent with our Nation's beginning: the prior right of parents.

No other environment can provide the loving dedication so necessary for each child as "home".

This bill is designed to assert that education is an identifiable area of parent jurisdiction. It does not preclude truancy. It only identifies that parents have the first responsibility and thereby the authority to choose and provide their children's education.

Your support of this fundamental in family values is most appreciated. The family is the constant spring board of Montana's future. Let's preserve its independence.

Respectfully,


Roger J. Scheidler

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 40

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

MONTANA COALITION OF HOME EDUCATORS

P.O. BOX 654
HELENA, MT 59624

Executive Committee

Kent Gilge - Chairman
Chinook
357-2893

Danita Hane
Seeley Lake
754-2481

Mark Gerber
Billings
245-2122

Steve White
Helena
443-5826

Linda Collins - Treasurer
Gardiner
848-7226

Advisory Committee

Big Timber Homeschoolers
Beaverhead Home Educators
Billings Area Homeschoolers
Bitterroot Valley Homeschoolers
Boulder Homeschoolers
Butte Area Homeschoolers
Cascade Homeschoolers
Central Montana Homeschoolers
Colstrip Homeschool Group
East Slope Academic Association
Flathead Valley Homeschoolers Association
Gallatin Valley Homeschoolers
Gardiner's Homeschoolers
GFCC Homeschoolers
Glasgow Home Educators
Glendive Area Home Educators
Helena Area Christian Home Educators
HiLine Homeschoolers
Homeschoolers of Montana
Laurel Area Homeschoolers
Lincoln County Christian Homeschoolers
Meagher County Homeschoolers
Mission Valley Homeschoolers
Missoula Homeschoolers Association
Northern Home Educators
Northwest Montana Homeschoolers
Park County Homeschoolers Association
Seeley-Swan Homeschoolers
Shepherd Area Homeschoolers
Whitehall Area Homeschoolers

Testimony of R. Stephen White for SB 287

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee.

My name is Steve White. I am a fourth generation Montanan, and live in Helena. I own several businesses in Helena and with my wife Pam home educate our 9 year old son, Matthew. We have been home educating our son for four years. During that time we have enjoyed the opportunity and the academic success which has accompanied this endeavor.

As a member of the executive committee of the Montana Coalition of Home Educators, I ask for your support of SB 287. The Montana Coalition of Home Educators is composed of home educators from across Montana. We are from diverse backgrounds and religious convictions. Our primary bond is the desire to exercise our parental rights to direct the educational settings for our children.

Our children and their future is the only thing of lasting value which we are able to pass to the next generation. We take very seriously the freedoms which are offered in this state. During the last several years there have been many accomplishments in the home education community which I would like to address.

Here are a few things which have happened since the Coalition of Home Educators was founded in September of 1988:

- Almost 50 support groups have been identified and networked around the state. These support groups offer year round interaction between home education families.

- **The Grapevine**, a top-notch statewide newsletter services the home educators of this state monthly.

- **Home School Reference Guides** by the thousands have been distributed to home educators,

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 41

DATE 2-15-91

PH. NO. 387

libraries and county superintendents.

- Many seminars and workshops featuring nationally acclaimed educators have been sponsored.

- A workshop in White Sulphur Springs is conducted each fall to assist families new to home education.

- A very successful state-wide convention was held last Spring at the Colonial Inn here in Helena. Over 400 people from across the state and neighboring states attended. We even had families from Canada attend.

- Curriculum fairs have sprung up around the state.

- The Governor has twice honored us by proclaiming a week in May as Home Education Week.

Our future goals are to continue to pursue educational excellence for our children. We have more seminars, workshops and conventions planned for the years ahead. This last year we raised several thousand dollars to evaluate the test results from approximately 350 home educated children statewide. This was a voluntary effort by all participants. The results were very positive and consistent with national home education studies. Here to present the results of our study is Dr. Brian Ray of the National Home Education Research Institute of Seattle, Washington.

February 15, 1991

TO: SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

RE: SB 287

My name is Danita Hane. My husband and I have home taught our daughters for nine years. I am also the editor of the GRAPEVINE, the state-wide newsletter for homeschoolers, and a member of the executive committee of the Montana Coalition of Home Educators. Because of these roles, I have the opportunity to meet and help many homeschoolers and learn about their problems. Home education, parents and children who are home schooled have come under attack in several ways. Harassment and intimidation occur often and there is a negative attitude towards the institution of the family and family education, even in proposed legislation which sends a negative message to homeschoolers. We are asking you to pass this bill as a positive statement about families—to recognize and encourage parental responsibility, to protect our children and families from discrimination and harassment.

This bill is a clarification of the rights and responsibilities of home schooling families that are protected under the present home school statutes. It will help to eliminate the confusion about roles and responsibilities for home schools that has caused tension and problems for homeschoolers and county superintendents and even local school administrators and trustees. We have been working to improve communication and relationships, and this bill will help to clear up some of the misunderstandings and concerns.

There is another important reason for this bill. Many prominent education groups are promoting policies that would force home schools into the mold of public schools. Certification of teachers, mandated curriculum or use of local school curriculum, standardized testing, monitoring by public school educators, etc., are all ways in which the educational establishment is attempting to make home schools part of the public education system. The problem with this is that many children are falling through the cracks of the public education system. Problems with logistics such as classroom size and classroom management, methods and different learning modes of the student cause many children to get "lost in the shuffle". Many parents choose home schooling because their children are having problems in conventional classrooms. Public education works for many children, but alternatives need to be available for those who do not fit. Home education is one answer to that problem. Parents need to have the flexibility to try different curriculums and methods to help their children learn. They also need to be able to be in control of the evaluation procedures they use in their programs, especially since some of these evaluation tools in the past have been harmful to their children.

Family education is being attacked by resolutions or proposed legislation from many groups who continually attempt to dilute the parents' primary responsibility for their children and consequently weaken the family. Home education is rebuilding strong families, strong family relationships and strong family values. In this day when the breakdown of the family is constantly being bemoaned and blamed for many social problems, the restoration of the family needs to be encouraged, not attacked.

Please vote for SB 287 and protect the home school option.

Danita Hane, HCR 31, Box 1702, Seeley Lake, Montana 59868

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 42

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

February 15, 1991

Dear Mr. Blaylock,

Please support SB 287.

Perhaps you have asked yourself: "Why would parents want the responsibility of their child's education when they are paying taxes to let someone else do it?" Very simply. because they care.

"Historically it has been recognized that natural bonds of affection lead parents to act in the best interests of their children." I.W. Blackstone. Commentaries 447, 2J Kent Commentaries on American Law 190.

Montana parents who willingly choose to invest their time and money to instruct their children at home can be trusted to continue doing a fine job.

Your vote for SB 287 is a vote of confidence in Montana parents and freedom.

Most sincerely,



Eileen Guthrie
2 Cloninger Lane
Bozeman, Mt 59715

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 43
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

February 13, 1991

Dear Legislative Education Committee Member;

Having taught in the Idaho public school system, I am fully aware of the pros and cons of public education. While we feel public education is necessary for the good of society, our religious convictions have prompted us to homeschool. It is our desire to provide our children with a sound education based on Godly principles.

Homeschooling in Idaho was stressful. Without any state-wide guidelines, local school districts were given the responsibility of regulating homeschoolers. The lack of uniformity of regulations resulted in an atmosphere of uncertainty among school superintendents, school board members, and home educators.

In 1989 my husband's employer decided to retire. As we began looking for job opportunities, Idaho was not even considered. Rather we concentrated solely on Montana because of the favorable homeschooling laws. My husband, a ranch manager, took a substantial cut in salary to move to an area where the atmosphere is conducive to homeschooling.

We take the responsibility of educating our child seriously and appreciate Montana's homeschooling laws which facilitate our efforts. Please consider this point of view as you consider this legislation.

Respectfully yours,


Sabi Zahner

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 44

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

9500 Highway 324
Dillon, MT 59725

February 10, 1991

Dear Legislative Educational Committee Members,

This letter is to inform you how important the existing Montana homeschool laws are to those people considering moving here.

Approximately seven years ago our family was living in Washington State, but because homeschooling is one of the top priorities in our family, we wanted to live in a state that would allow us to home educate our children with the least restrictive laws. The nature of my husband's employment is such that we have the liberty of choosing where we want to live. We examined the homeschool laws of all the continental states and found Montana to have the best and most fair laws for homeschooling. In 1984 we moved to Montana and have enjoyed living here ever since.

Homeschool families are positive people who build strong families committed to serving their communities. For example, my husband is a member of the volunteer fire department and served a year as their training officer. He is also an Emergency Medical Technician and volunteers on our community's Quick Response Unit and served a year as its president. In addition, he is a member of Hospice, a nation-wide, non-profit organization to help the terminally ill and their families. Our teenage daughter is involved in the Adopt A Resident program at the local convalescent home. Home school families are strong, active members of their community.

Please don't discourage people from moving to Montana. We are glad we came, and as long as our homeschool laws do not change, we plan on staying.

Respectfully yours,



Cynthia J. Peck

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 45
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

19955 Highway 91 South
Dillon, MT 59725

February 14, 1991

The Legislative Educational Committee Members
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Committee Members,

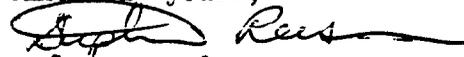
We feel that as parents we have the responsibility to see that our children are educated and we believe that home education is the method to accomplish this. We do not see home schooling as an excuse for truancy but rather as a viable authentic alternative to public education. We do not take our responsibility lightly as we desire the highest quality education for our children.

We have observed several Montana families who have successfully home educated their children under the present system and it works very well. Since our children are just entering school age, we are greatly looking forward to home educating our children in Montana. Montana laws presently regulating home education are favorable to the meeting of our responsibility.

Therefore, we strongly support the signing and passing of SB287 sponsored by Senator Gage. Today we have come to appeal to our legislative body to uphold our freedom as Montanans to home educate our children.

Thank You for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,




Stephen and Susan Reeser

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 46
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Testimony of Mark Gerber for SB 287

Mr. Chairman and committee members. As you ponder what to do with this bill before you, I urge you to be mindful of the positive economic impact homeschooling has on our great state.

First, based on an educational cost of \$4,000 per student, homeschoolers save the state of Montana \$4 million per year on educational expenses while still generating revenue for the state through property and other taxes they pay.

Secondly, while many people are leaving the state of Montana due to our economic conditions, many homeschoolers are moving into the state because of our favorable homeschool law.

Our state organization receives letters weekly from families who are considering a job-transfer to Montana instead of another state, and are examining our homeschool law as a deciding criteria. These people are generally middle-to-upper income families.

We also receive numerous inquiries from businessmen who are considering moving job-creating businesses here, despite our perceived "anti-business" environment. These prospective employers include individuals in the professional fields, and once again, they are particularly interested in our state due to our positive homeschool law.

Attached are copies of 28 letters representing homeschoolers from 15 different states and the country of Korea. These people are thinking about moving here, because of our homeschool law, or already have.

In summary, homeschoolers are committed to their cause, even to the point of placing greater importance on their homeschooling than their job location. Families have moved here seeking the freedom to teach that our state has to offer them. They also will not hesitate to move out of Montana if they are harassed and discriminated against.

Homeschoolers are building strong families and a strong economy for Montana, at the same time. Montana needs both. Please don't discourage others from moving into Montana, and don't encourage those already here to move out. Vote for SB 287.

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 47

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

Sweet Medical Center

P.O. Box 309 — 419 Pennsylvania
CHINOOK, MT 59523
(406) 357-2294

Exhibits
To Accompany
Mark Gebers's
Testimony
Re: SB 287

December 4, 1990

Governor Stan Stephens
Governor's Office
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Governor Stephens,

I recently read an article in the *Big Sky Business Journal* (copy enclosed) reporting on the role home education is playing in attracting people to the state.

I felt compelled to let you know that the home education freedoms offered in this state were very much a factor in our decision to relocate to Montana. The beauty and recreational opportunities also lured us and made up, to some extent, the financial gains we could have made in other states.

There are many top-notch professionals and quality people in general who have committed themselves to the educational excellence home education provides.

As the only privately practicing physician in Blaine County, I am acutely aware of the difficulties rural areas have in attracting professionals. Let's not place unnecessary restrictions on anything that can be used as a positive recruiting factor, as well as restricting freedom of educational choice.

We are appreciative of the support you have offered home education in the past and look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,


Dr. Stan Jett

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 48
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

- Montana Coalition of Home Educators
- Box 654
- Helena, Montana 59624

- We have been considering moving to
- Montana. We live in New Mexico
- and home school our two sons. We
- would like to know about your
- laws governing home schooling in
- your state. Our oldest son (9th grade)
- suffers from a sleeping disorder
- "Narcolepsy/Cataplexy" therefore
- having a need for individual
- instruction that public schools
- can not deliver. It is important
- to us that we know your laws
- before a final decision can be
- made about our moving there. We
- plan a vacation in '91 to visit
- your state and look for property.
- We are ranchers and need several
- acres for raising cattle and horses.
- We prefer mountain areas rather
- than plains. Thank you for
- your cooperation and time. I've
- Enclosed a SASE.

Sincerely,
Lloyd & Lynn
Ingram

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 49

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

Box 59 Hwy 545
Lindrieth, N. M. 87029

HOME - (505) 774-6533

9500 Highway 324
Dillon, MT 59725

February 10, 1991

Dear Legislative Educational Committee Members,

This letter is to inform you how important the existing Montana homeschool laws are to those people considering moving here.

Approximately seven years ago our family was living in Washington State, but because homeschooling is one of the top priorities in our family, we wanted to live in a state that would allow us to home educate our children with the least restrictive laws. The nature of my husband's employment is such that we have the liberty of choosing where we want to live. We examined the homeschool laws of all the continental states and found Montana to have the best and most fair laws for homeschooling. In 1984 we moved to Montana and have enjoyed living here ever since.

Homeschool families are positive people who build strong families committed to serving their communities. For example, my husband is a member of the volunteer fire department and served a year as their training officer. He is also an Emergency Medical Technician and volunteers on our community's Quick Response Unit and served a year as its president. In addition, he is a member of Hospice, a nation-wide, non-profit organization to help the terminally ill and their families. Our teenage daughter is involved in the Adopt A Resident program at the local convalescent home. Home school families are strong, active members of their community.

Please don't discourage people from moving to Montana. We are glad we came, and as long as our homeschool laws do not change, we plan on staying.

Respectfully yours,



Cynthia J. Peck

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO.

50

DATE

2-15-91

BILL NO.

287

January 30, 1991

Governor Stan Stephens
Governor's Office
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Governor Stephens,

I participated in the recent Home Education Legislative Day activities held on January 25, 1991. I want to say thank you for your support of this cause. Your support has not gone unnoticed, nor unappreciated.

One of the main reasons our family chose to relocate to Montana last year was because of the issue of homeschooling. We moved from a state that did not have favorable laws which allowed parents to freely educate their children as they felt was best for the child.

I am a medical professional employed with the Public Health Service. There were several states where I could have chosen to relocate. I am glad we chose Montana.

We appreciate the support you have offered home education in the past and look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

Glen Revere, MS, RD
2415 Heritage Dr.
Havre, MT 59501
265-1741

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 51

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

Dear Friends of:

Aug 22, 1990

Montana Coalition of Home Educators

We Home School our 2 daughters
Right now we are living in
Brewley, California The first week of
October we are moving to
Great Falls, Montana. Could you
please send us information on
legal matters concerning "Home
Schooling in the State of Montana."

Here is our current address that
will forward our mail to Montana.
(We don't have an address in
Montana yet.)

* Mrs. Daryl A. Riffel
9 State St., Box 37
Centro, CA 92243

Thank you -

Because of Calvary -

Mrs. Cherie Riffel

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO.

52

DATE

2-15-91

BILL NO.

287

PRO 3-6

7-27-90

Hi!

We are a family of six (soon to be seven) and we home-school in Washington state. Possibly, we plan to move next spring to Montana and are concerned regarding how many regulations the state puts on those who teach at home.

Do you have some information on this subject? From what we hear, our state is one of the least regulated states when it comes to state control.

We would appreciate any help you may have for us. Are there support groups in the Great Falls area? Does Montana pick curriculum and give parents an ultimatum? Do parents have educational requirements to teach their kids?

Thanks, and may the Lord bless you!

Richard + Keren Fish
1907 Lakewood Drive
Spokane, WA 98290
206-568-2566

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 53

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

Dear Montana Coalition,

Could you please mail me
your laws, legislation & current
status of the home schooling
situation in Montana?

(Seems like I wrote you before but
have no record of it)

Thank you -

Sincerely

John Takliel
1823 Broxon ST
Boise, Id 83705

208-348-7905

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO.

54

DATE

2-15-91

BILL NO.

287

Dear State Organization

Please send information about
a local home schoolers group in
Great Falls, Montana to my friend
who is seeking this kind of information.

Send address, phone #, person to
contact, any meeting dates and places
of meeting and any other information
you feel would be of value to her.

Enclosed is a stamped and addressed
envelope please send this info. as soon
as possible.

Sincerely

Jubeann Skiver
fellow home schooler
in South Korea.

"O continue Thy lovingkindness
unto them that know Thee..."

PSALM 36:10

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 55
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

October 24, 1990

Montana Coalition of Home Schools
Box 654
Helena, Montana 59624

Dear Sister Madame:

My husband and I are moving our family (4 children ages 6, 3 1/2, 1 1/2 and 4 1/2 months) to Bozeman as soon as we sell our house. We are home schooling our 6 year old, and I would like to make contact with other families in the Bozeman area prior to our arrival. Do you have the name of someone I might contact regarding a support group or a contact person in the Bozeman area? I would appreciate any information you can provide.

Thank you for your help

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO.

56

DATE

2-15-91

BILL NO.

207

Kathy Fair
4613 Robbins St.

San Diego, Ca 92122

November 16, 1990

Montana Coalition of Home Educators
Box 654
Helena, Montana 59624

Gentlemen:

Our family is currently considering relocating to Montana. We are strongly committed to home-schooling our three children. Could you please forward me information regarding the State of Montana's laws regarding home education?

New Mexico's requirements are, at this time, very easily met and the political climate is somewhat tolerant. They do require that the instructor possess a B.S. degree but this may be waived.

We would appreciate any information you can make available to us. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tom and Dollie Hare
Box 892
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 57
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

429 Grange Road
Wheatland, Wy 82201
November 10, 1990

Homeschoolers of Montana
P.O. Box 654
Helena, MT 59624-0654

Dear Sir:

My family and I are considering moving to your state in the near future. We will probably be living in a remote cow camp on one of your state's ranches.

I am currently preparing to start our 9 year old son in home schooling. I plan to continue home schooling after we move.

Would you please tell me what the laws are in your state concerning "home schooling". What rules and regulations have to be met, etc. Any information and help you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

I hope to get all the red tape taken care of once we decide where we are going to move.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dianne Smith

Dianne Smith

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO.

58

DATE

2-15-91

BILL NO.

287

1/14/91

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are considering a move to Bozeman, MT.
Could you please send us a name or names
of homeschoolers we could contact in Bozeman
Or if there is a H.S. support group we would
appreciate that information.

If you have any information on H.S. laws in
Montana, we'd appreciate that also.

I've enclosed a STASP for your convenience.
Thank-you very much.

Sincerely,

Carol Day

Roger & Carol Day
440 N. Garden City Road
Fremont, NE 68025



Montana Coalition of Home Schools
Box 654
Helena, MT 59624

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 59

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 207

Dear Sir/Madam,

Could you please send me some information about your organization and also about the laws concerning home schooling in your state. My husband and I are considering a move to that area, and one of our considerations would be how difficult home schooling criteria would be.

Thank-you for your time and your help.

Sincerely,
Denise Cohen
29 Essex Ave.
Waterbury, Ct. 06704

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 60

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

Home Schoolers
Montana

Dear Sir,

My husband and I would like current information on the Home School Laws in Montana. We have been discussing the possibility of relocating in Montana. Any information you can give us would be greatly appreciated. Thank you

Sincerely
Mrs. Julia A. Hayes

Glenn W. Hayes
16250 Klein rd.
Rock Springs Wyo 83461

STATE OF MONTANA

EXHIBIT NO. 61

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 207

Please send us the laws &
all important information on
homeschooling in Butte, Montana.

This is our fifth year of
homeschooling and we intend to
go on through high school,
but since we are moving to
Montana, we needed to know
the legal status. Thank you.

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Shehee
P.O. # Box 218a
Mineral Wells, Tx.

76067

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 62

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

Please Send a copy of Montana
Home School Law.

Thank You,

Cathy Anderson

Box 315
East Moriches, NY 11940

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 63

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

4340E 5425 S
Langley, wa 98260
July 10, 1990

Montana Home Educators
729 S+h Ave
Helena, MT 59601

Greetings, we are considering
move to Montana and currently
homeschool in Washington. Would you
please send me information regarding
the situation in Montana for
homeschooling.

Thank you,

Ronna Bartil

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 64

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

I am writing from Spearfish, S.D.,
am originally from Montana. We will
be moving over to Boyeman, Mt. soon.
Would like some information on the
Homeschool organization there and in
Montana. Would like to subscribe
to the Mont. Home-school news-letter.

Genny Phillips
P.O. 2 Box 423
Spearfish, S.D.
57783

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO.

65

DATE

2-15-91

BILL NO.

287

Aug 6, 1990

To Coalition of Home Educators:

My name is Robin Purdy,
I am writing to ask for
information on home schooling
in your state. What is the legal
status as present, requirements etc.
We are presently living in CA. We
are from Arizona. I would
appreciate any and all information!!
Thank you very much for your
time.

God Bless,

Robin R. Purdy
35 E. Deerwood Ln.
Tracy, CA
95376

Robin R. Purdy

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 66

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

Dear Madam/Sir;

We will be moving to Montana in the very near future
and would greatly appreciate any information that you can
send to us regarding home-schooling regulations and
laws for Montana. We are presently doing home-schooling
now and intend to continue after our move.

Our current mailing address is:

Mrs. Anita Givens

508 N. 4th Street

Sterling, Co. 80751

Thank-you,

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 67

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 207

JAMES & PEGGY TUTTLE
31931 116TH ST. S.E.
SULTAN WA 98294

Dear Home schoolers,
Would it be possible for
you to send me some information
concerning Montana's Home School LAWS -
We may be moving to Montana
and I would like to continue
to Home school.

Thank you.

Mrs. PEGGY Tuttle
31931-116th St. S. E.
Sultan, Washington
98294



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SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 68

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

9-24-90

HOME SCHOOLERS OF MONTANA
P.O. BOX 654
HELENA, MT 59624

PLEASE SEND ME INFO
ON HOME SCHOOL SUPPORT
GROUPS IN YOUR STATE
AND/OR BILLINGS, MONTANA
AS WELL AS APPROXIMATE
OF HOME SCHOOL
FAMILIES, ETC.
THANK YOU!

SINCERELY -
MARLA CAROS

P.S. "SASE" ENCLOSED

116 MORNINGSIDe DRIVE
MANHATTAN BEACH, CA 90266

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 69
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Oct. 6, 1990

Dear Homeschool Assoc.,

I currently homeschool our three sons in Wash. state, however we plan to relocate within the next 12 months and may move to Mont. I sent for a copy of the law from the Mt. Superintendent, which I received & am curious to know how & what is required to comply with the health/safety aspect & the accreditation part of the law.

Any information you could give me would be appreciated.

This is our fifth year of home schooling. Our older two ~~took~~ their GED's @ 16 and one is attending Mont. Wilderness School of the Bible; the other finished a Jr. Acct. program @ NCTEC & is looking into Elem. Ed. for 1991.

I have never taken a homeschool course, but do hold an Associate Degree of Arts in Nursing & am an RN.

My husband had 2 1/2 yrs of college.

Please let me know of yours

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 70

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

Dear Fellow Home Schoolers,

Our family has recently moved to the beautiful state of Montana. We have come from Houston, Tx. where last year I served as a support group leader for the A.W. Houston/Alief group. I have 5 children ages 9 to 16 mos.

Here is my 5.⁰⁰ to be apart of your group. I have a few questions.

1. Are you a Christian home schooling organization? If not is there one in the Kalispell/Big Fork area?

2. Do you have a directory of other homeschoolers?

Please also send me the Montana Home School Law. 50¢

Send to:

Rt. 1 Meadowcreek

Big Fork, Mt.

59911

Sincerely In Christ,

Michelle Bartlett

SERIAL NUMBER

EXHIBIT NO.

DATE

BILL NO.

71

2-15-91

287

Penny Jordan
112 Strickland Dr.
Mather A.F.B., CA 95655

Sept. 10, 1990

Dear Fellow Home Educator,

Our family will be moving to Great Falls in January 1991 from California. This is our third-year to home-school and we wish to continue when we arrive in Montana.

I have recently read in the Aug./Sept. issue of *Teaching Home* that the Montana Education Association is trying to get a law passed that would impose a teacher certification standard. And that the MEA wants home schoolers to be required to use "the state curriculum". Of course this concerns me as I'm sure it would most who are homeschooling.

I was wondering if you can make any suggestions as to what we might do to see that these requirements do not become law. I would greatly appreciate any information on this issue, and what is happening with it.

Thank you very much and I will continue to uphold this concern in my prayers.

Sincerely,

Penny C. Jordan

Penny Jordan

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 72

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

Homeschoolers of Montana,
I recently wrote to
your State Education Department
inquiring about the home
school laws in your state.

I wondered if you could
send me any other
information. Do the children
have to be tested every
year?

Also I wonder if you
could give me any place
I could call or write to
get information about
housing or jobs.

Thank you in advance
for any thing you can
do for me.

I have enclosed a
self addressed stamped
envelope.

Thanks again

Debbie Staley
9330 Briar Rd

Magnolia, ^{OK 44642} STATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 73

DATE 2-15-91

BILL NO. 287

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Forsyth
1000 W. 57th N.
Tulsa, Ok. 74126

Montana Coalition of Home Educators
P.O. Box 654
Helena, Montana 59624

January 15, 1991

Dear Fellow Home Educators,

With deep interest and much concern I write. We are home educators and members of C.H.E.F., (Christian Home Educators Fellowship, here in Tulsa. We have two (2) school aged children which we have been free to educate at home without regulation or persecution of any kind. We feel responsible for our children's education and work very hard with them to ensure they receive adequate training. We provide all learning materials that are needed and, I might add, the results have been tremendous! Our children read & write & spell & reason at an exceptional rate. Furthermore, we feel our children are happier, healthier, and better behaved than public school children. My concern therefore is the laws & ordinances pertaining to home school in the state of Montana.

You see, my husband and I look forward to moving to Montana. And feeling as we do about home school, not willing to give it up, we write you a fore time for assistance. Please send us any information you might feel we would need to prepare us for such a move. If you are unable to assist us please send us the names of the ones we should contact, Postage is included. We would be truly grateful and indebted for your response.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Jonathan Forsyth

1000 West 57th Street North, Tulsa, Ok. 74126

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 74

DATE 2-15-91