

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
February 13, 1981

The House Education Committee convened on February 13, 1981, at 12:35 p.m., in Room 129, State Capitol, with Chairman Eudaily presiding and all members present except Reps. Azzara and Donaldson who were excused and Rep. Dussault, who was absent.

Chairman Eudaily opened the meeting to a hearing on the following bills: HBs 618, 647 and 660.

HOUSE BILL 618

REPRESENTATIVE MELVIN WILLIAMS, District 70, chief sponsor, said the purpose of the bill is to provide a mechanism to provide the funds on a weighted basis. He said this enabling legislation should be passed to establish the distribution of these funds so they can't be used for something else. He said a statement of intent is needed and a copy is EXHIBIT 1 and part of the minutes. He said another benefit will be the earlier date of the distribution of funds to the school districts.

JIM FITZPATRICK, President, Montana Council of Local Administrators, spoke next in support and a copy of his testimony is EXHIBIT 2 of the minutes. He said it is a very simple bill but effective. The Office of Public Instruction will distribute the funds for approved applications. The programs must be offered for one year prior to receiving any funding, and only high school districts would be eligible for funds.

MAYNARD OLSON, Special Assistant, Office of Public Instruction, spoke next in support and a copy of his testimony is EXHIBIT 3 and part of the minutes.

REPRESENTATIVE JAMES SCHUTLZ, District 48, spoke next in support and a copy of his testimony is EXHIBIT 4 and part of the minutes.

WILLIAM BALL, Executive Secretary, Montana Advisory Council for Vocational Education, spoke next and a copy of her testimony is EXHIBIT 5 and part of the minutes.

ALAN STOHLER, President, Montana Vocational Association, Missoula, spoke next in support and a copy of his testimony is EXHIBIT 6 and part of the minutes.

MIKE CAVEY, Montana Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association, Missoula, spoke next and a copy of his testimony is EXHIBIT 7 and part of the minutes.

WAYNE BUCHANAN, Montana School Boards Association, spoke next in support. He said he doesn't feel there is anybody who hasn't recognized the value of vocational education. He said this is a field that is expensive and so one that is usually first cut by a district. This bill gives special protection to this program. He said it is a good and well written bill.

THEA SWENSON, Montana Business Education Teachers, Helena, read a letter from Mrs. Elfrieda Idleman, MBEA President, and a copy of this letter is EXHIBIT 8 of the minutes.

WILL WEAVER, Secondary Vocational Education Administrator, Great Falls, spoke in support and a copy of his testimony is EXHIBIT 9 and part of the minutes.

DOUG POLETTE, President, Industrial Education, spoke next in support and a copy of his testimony is EXHIBIT 10 and part of the minutes.

MARY GERNATT, President, Home Economics Teachers, Great Falls, spoke next in support and a copy of her testimony is EXHIBIT 11 and part of the minutes.

Due to a time limitation DAVE SEXTON, Montana Education Association, handed in written testimony which is EXHIBIT 12 of the minutes.

Written testimony favoring the bill was received from the following:

JESSE LONG, Adm. Secretary, School Administrators of Montana, EXHIBIT 13 of the minutes.

CYNTHIA KLEESSENS, Vo-ag Instructor, EXHIBIT 14 of the minutes.

ROBERT W. NELSON, President of MVATA, EXHIBIT 15 of the minutes.

Alden Irish, Vo-ag Instructor and FFA Advisor, Belt, EXHIBIT 16.

Rep. Williams in closing said he would like to thank the committee for the privilege of testifying. He said it is important to have a strong program and these programs need special financing properly distributed.

Rep. Lory asked if a bill like this wasn't passed last session. Rep. Williams said it was by the House and it failed in the Senate. The appropriations was attached to the enabling legislation. The appropriation passed and not the enabling part so the money was distributed as an emergency fund and this was a mistake. That is why the appropriation and enabling parts are separate this year. He said the appropriation is in both the fiscal analyst budget and the governor's budget.

Chairman Eudaily asked Bob Stockton, OPI, if there would be any problem with the November 1 date of distributing funds. Mr. Stockton said no problem as it is appropriated from the general fund budget. The other fund in question was from a fund that has to be built up.

HOUSE BILL 647

REPRESENTATIVE GERALD KESSLER, District 66, chief sponsor, said this bill is an attempt to clear up a small problem that deals

with state law that requires a child to attend school until his 16th birthday and completes the 8th grade. The bill just strikes "and" and inserts "or" and the law now says until the later of the two and this bill would amend that to the earlier of the two.

WAYNE BUCHANAN, School Board Association, spoke in opposition. He said there is difficulty with the bill and it is a major difficulty. It is entirely possible to have children 12 and 13 that have completed formal education if you allow this. He said until age 16 is a good time because at that time a child can start to use some judgement of his own. He recommended a do not pass.

Rep. Kessler in closing said the school boards have made a valid point. He said the problem they have is with a certain number of students that are required to be in school but don't want to be there. He felt the benefits of the bill would outweigh the detriments.

Questions were asked by the committee. Rep. Hannah asked Mr. Buchanan concerning age - if most 8th graders weren't 14. He said could be a bright student. Rep. Hannah questioned if these were the ones we were talking about though. Rep. Kessler said they don't have trouble with those students. Rep. Buchanan said we do have some segments that routinely take their children out of school regardless of how they do. Rep. Hannah asked what difference would the bill do if they routinely do this. Mr. Buchanan said they would have to go until they are 16. Rep. Kessler said he had not had this experience with any administrations he has taught with. Mr. Buchanan said for problem children where there is no sense in following through on their education there is an exception in the present law. Chairman Eudaily drew Rep. Kessler's attention to this exception which is on page 2, lines 18 through 21. Rep. Kessler asked if the committee's legal staff would check this out to see if this would give the school what they need to expel a student. Rep. Kessler said there is an Attorney General's opinion that causes some problems in this area. Chairman Eudaily asked Rep. Kessler to check on the number of the opinion and bring the information to the committee before action is taken on the bill.

HOUSE BILL 660

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT ANDERSON, District 16, chief sponsor, said this bill comes to the committee because of a growing transportation problem. He said the growing cost of gas is making it more of a problem. This particular bill would reduce the allowable distance a child must live from school to get bus transportation from 3 miles to 1 1/2 miles.

DON WALDRON, Libby Public Schools, spoke next in support. He said he has been concerned for about six years and mostly about safety as their students have a highway that must be crossed. He said they run 19 bus routes and would need 6 additional to handle this. He felt it wouldn't necessarily mean 1/3 more cost.

He said Great Falls does bus within three miles and would gain less than 20 percent if they moved back to the three mile limit. He said the bill will do two great things: take a few cars out of the parking lots and provide safety for the youngsters involved.

MARK RACICOT, Helena, representing self, said he really represents a significant portion of Helena. He said this transportation is a real problem in the Helena valley. Ninety percent of the kids live between 1 1/2 and 3 miles and have three major arterial roads, which have to be crossed or walked along side. He said we have to get the kids to school before we can start educating them. He asked that the committee think about safety and energy factors. He said Pat Thompson would speak further on the Helena Valley problem.

JESSE LONG, School Administrators of Montana, who was unable to be present, had left written testimony opposing and this is EXHIBIT 17 of the minutes.

BOB STOCKTON, Office of Public Instruction, said they had been asked for a fiscal note and it is not yet completed and he apologized for that. He said he could give some rough figures when the committee gets ready for questions.

Rep. Anderson in closing said he hadn't really mentioned the safety factor. The particular school district he has in mind has a factory built between the city and the school and the only route to the school is the highway. The students live approximately a mile and a half and the only way they can get there is to walk down the highway. There is a mechanism to do this if they live over the three mile limit and it is paid 1/3 by the state, 1/3 by the county and 1/3 by the school district.

Questions were asked by the committee. Rep. Harrington asked two hesitant ladies what they had to say.

KAREN LEWIS, Helena Valley, said she has car pooled for 7 years as the safety factor is unbelievable - no bypasses. She said she speaks as a concerned citizen.

PAT JOHNSON, Helena Valley, said five years ago the valley organized a group and voluntarily set up busing for the kids under three miles. She said they have transported over 200 children in three buses. The children are paying to be transported to school. She felt the district should be taking it over. She said they have a real problem as with three different schools there are three highways that must be crossed.

Rep. Hannah questioned if the districts that do not have problems would be happy to contribute to the ones that do.

Bob Stockton upon request gave his rough figures. 105,000 students reside within the 3 mile limit and about 73,500 would become eligible under this bill; a 72 passenger bus would hold 48 children and at a cost of 6¢ a mile to transport a child; average distance a bus would travel 9 miles; state share would

be \$35 a child. It will roughly cost the state 2.4 million extra a year to cover its share. Allow the county share of the elementary transportation to put 1.4 in the foundation program to cover the loss - 3.8 million per year for the state. 7.6 over the biennium. Mr. Stockton said he would get the fiscal note to the committee as quickly as he could.

Rep. Hanson asked Mr. Waldron if the taxpayer is paying for education, shouldn't the parents get them to school. Mr. Waldron said it is a matter of philosophy. His feeling is that you have to get the students to school in good shape in order to teach them. He said busing is convenient in another way as it is then convenient to bus them from overcrowded schools to those not so overcrowded.

Chairman Eudaily asked why more school districts weren't doing this extra busing on their own like Great Falls. Mr. Waldron said it is a matter of cost - \$70 a day to operate a bus and transportation is already high.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

HOUSE BILL 618 - Rep. Lory moved DO PASS. Rep. Hannah asked what we are doing that is different from what we were doing? Rep. Lory said this is enabling legislation. It sets up a weighted schedule for which additional ANB funding can be given for that program. Rep. O'Hara questioned if funding the vocational programs would take away from what was left to fund the regular courses. Rep. Williams explained this has nothing to do with appropriations of money but only tells what the different programs will get if funded. This is also not vo-tech (that's post secondary) but vocational education for high school students. Rep. O'Hara asked if the district couldn't still cut in this area if they wished. Chairman Eudaily said this money can only be used for vocational education. Rep. Yardley reminded the committee that a statement of intent was needed. Rep. Lory changed his motion to DO PASS with a statement of intent attached. Motion carried unanimously with those present. Absent were Reps. Azzara, Dussault and Donaldson.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



RALPH S. EUDAILY, CHAIRMAN

Ex. 1

Statement of Intent - HB 618

Section 1. Rulemaking authority having been specifically granted under sections 1 and 2 of House Bill 618 this statement of intent is required by law.

Section 2. The allocation method established in House Bill 618 is to be administered by the office of the superintendent of public instruction for secondary vocational and industrial arts programs according to rules promulgated by that office. The rules are to provide for the form of the application and any budgeting and accounting requirements that are needed to satisfactorily provide for fiscal responsibility regarding the funds. Further rules are necessary to define and approve course areas and programs to receive the funding. The rules shall contain a table of five classes of courses ranked by the relative cost of providing the course. An example of such a table would be:

Category	Weight
I	.50
II	.40
III	.30
IV	.20
V	.10

The superintendent of public instruction is to place each course or program into one of these classes. The weights are to be adjusted as necessary to provide equitable allocation of funds and to insure that appropriated funds are not exceeded.

February 11, 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Ralph Eudaily, Chairman House Education Committee

FROM: Jim Fitzpatrick, President, Montana Council of Local Administrators

RE: Testimony on House Bill 618

1. House Bill 618 is designed to provide a method of allocating funding to Secondary Vocational and Industrial Arts programs based on relative additional costs incurred by High School Districts.
2. The bill was developed by Vocational Education Administrators, Teachers, the Montana Advisory Council for Vocational Education, Office of Public Instruction, School Administrators and Business Managers.
3. The bill addresses and corrects the major difficulties the OPI and School Districts experienced in administering House Bill 537.
4. An appropriation for financing Secondary Vocational Education and Industrial Arts programs is recommended by the legislative fiscal analyst.
5. The major provisions of this bill include:

Funds are to be disbursed to school districts for additional costs. This would include such areas as instructional supplies, major and minor equipment, instructional maintenance and repair, extended salary contracts, instructional travel and instructional related travel expenses.

- Section 1 The OPI will distribute the funds to High School Districts having approved Secondary Vocational and Industrial Arts programs.
- Subsection 2 The High School District would apply to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall prescribe ANB determination, application, budget procedure and accounting rules and other rules necessary.
- Subsection 3 Secondary Vocational and Industrial Arts programs must be offered for one year before being eligible for funding.
- Subsection 4 High School District is defined as providing educational services for grades 9 - 12.

- Section 2 Distribution of Funds - The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall categorize Secondary Vocational Education programs into 1 of 5 categories based upon the relative additional cost of those programs.
- Subsection 2 The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall determine the weighted category to be assigned Industrial Arts programs.
- Subsection 3 The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall adjust weighted categories to assure that funds are not exceeded.
- Subsection 4 Funding shall be based on ANB on the previous year.
- Subsection 5 This subsection deals with the procedure for determining the dollar amount school districts will receive. ANB for each category shall be multiplied by the factor for that category and the product multiplied by the applicable ANB dollar value. Industrial Arts programs shall be funded at 50% of the category assigned.
- Subsection 6 Funds would be distributed by November 1. Monies must be deposited in a subfund of miscellaneous program funds and expended only for Secondary Vocational Education and Industrial Arts programs. The expenditures would be reported in the annual trustees report.
- Section 3 This section relates to codification of section 1 and 2 of this bill as a part of title 20, chapter 7, part 3.

In conclusion this is a simple but effective bill in: allocating additional cost funds for approved Secondary Vocational Education and Industrial Arts programs, eliminating the problems experienced in administering House Bill 537, providing the Superintendent of Public Instruction with the responsibility of administering and accounting for the funds.

I therefore urge you to support House Bill 618.

Ex. 3



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

STATE CAPITOL
HELENA, MONTANA 59601
(406) 449-3095

Ed Argenbright
Superintendent

TO :Rep.Ralph Eudaily,Chairman House Education Committee
FROM :Maynard A.Olson, Special Assistant,Transition, Legislative Liaison
DATE :February 13,1981
SUBJECT :House Bill #618

Chairman Eudaily and members of the committee, I am Maynard Olson, Special Assistant to State Superintendent Ed Argenbright in the Office of Public Instruction.

House Bill #618 provides enabling legislation on a permanent basis to distribute state funds appropriated for vocational education programs at the high school level.

There has been an uncertainty of funding and an inconsistent provision for secondary vocational education at the state level during the past several years. This bill provides a realistic and systematic method of establishing vo-ed programs, provides a reasonable method of funding and distribution of funds, and assures that the additional funding for these more costly vo-ed programs will be expended only for this purpose.

This legislation will provide stability in secondary vo-ed programs over a period of years and will bring about more efficiency in budget preparation. Vocational educators and administrators will know where they stand.

As you know, good high school vocational education programs must be continued. They are vital in the total education of our young people.

It has been my pleasure, as a representative of the State Superintendent's Office, to assist in the development of this much needed legislation. Representatives Williams and Senator McCallum worked in close cooperation with the Montana Vocational Association, the State Advisory Council for Vocational Education, and several school administrators in developing this bill.

House Bill #618 is a practical solution to many concerns we've had in the secondary vo-ed programs. Students need your help in acquiring the skills and training to pursue an occupation and have a productive life.

I urge your favorable consideration and support of this bill. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for record my name is James Schultz, Representative of District 48.

Members of the committee this bill addresses a segment of our student population that does not participate extensively in the post secondary educational programs. Few go to college.

These are the students that complete their academic careers in High School. The girls that become secretaries or clerks at the local stores or banks, the boys that go into the service trades or stores, garages, farm supply services or back to the farms and ranches prepared for home making.

When the state of Montana determined the required curriculum for high school graduation vocational skills were very lacking. Manual training was the only one mentioned.

Local schools could see the problem and many have set up fine programs that in many cases are as competent as the courses offered in vocational & trade schools.

These programs are expensive much more so than the normal classroom discipline.

An example of my home town school where we have Business practices, Secretarial, Home Economics Industrial Arts and Vocational Agriculture. The Budget for these departments for Supplies, Equipment,

Repairs maintenance is total \$ 76,870
Capital outlay 5447 total for 4 used programs is 23926

When we speak of 2ndary Vocational Education we are speaking about 40-50% of the total high school population.

We have many figures statistics on the % of students attending college, attending post-2ndary school, but when it's all said and done about 60% of these students become involved in the world of work without further training. So I strongly urge that this committee adequately fund this phase of our educational program.

Thank you,

Ex-5

TESTIMONY FOR H.B. 618

William A. Ball, State Advisory Council for Vocational Education
February 13, 1981

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record I am William Ball, Executive Director of the State Advisory Council for Vocational Education. I am here representing the Council in full support of H.B. 618.

The Council this past year conducted public meetings on vocational education; had a systematic study conducted on employers and former secondary vocational education students; and closely reviewed a study conducted this fall by the vocational education division of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Following thorough review of these reports and in consultation with the Montana Vocational Education Association, the Office of Public Instruction, School Boards Association, School Administrators of Montana and some individual administrators at local schools the Council has strongly supported the development of this enabling legislation for secondary vocational education and industrial arts.

Very briefly, this bill provides for:

1. Establishing a permanent procedure for disseminating appropriated funds for secondary vocational education. We highly recommend the establishment of such a procedure to provide consistency in funding procedures so the local schools may more adequately plan their vocational education programs.
2. The bill incorporates the use of established components in the procedure which will equitably apply whatever funds the legislature appropriates for these programs to assist the local school district in meeting the excess costs of the different vocational education programs. (ANB, categories of excess cost, and validity of program)
3. The legislation provides for a specific date, in this case, November 1, of each year in which the funds will be distributed to the eligible local schools.
4. Finally, the legislation requires that the funds appropriated for this purpose must be accounted for separately by the local school board, expended only for approved secondary vocational education and industrial arts programs, eliminates the necessity of emergency budgeting by the local schools for use of the funds and also requires that the financial activity of each program is to be reported annually by the local trustees.

The Advisory Council for Vocational Education respectfully urges your favorable consideration of HB 618.

Representative Ralph Eudaily, Chairman
House Committee on Education

My name is Alan Stohle, President of the Montana Vocational Association. I am an Industrial Arts Instructor for Missoula County High School. On behalf of the Montana Vocational Association and its membership, I would seek your support for full funding of secondary Vocational Education. This bill is essential to quality vocational programs for the following reasons:

1. Vocational Education programs are the highest cost programs in secondary schools to operate, yet they can and do provide greater returns through increased taxes paid by graduates. Students entering the labor force with learned skills will make substantially higher wages sooner--thereby paying more taxes than non-skilled workers.
2. School districts faced with increased budgets are cutting high cost programs. This is already evident in many schools across the state that have either cut programs or curtailed them to the extent that they are no longer eligible for vocational reimbursement. A non-vocational instructor can service twice the number of students at substantially less cost per student.
3. Due to the fact that resources available to school districts in Montana vary so greatly, the opportunity for vocational education varies to an even greater extent. Without additional support for vocational education this gap in educational opportunity will continue to increase.

4. Many states provide equal opportunity for vocational education. Montana does not provide any protection for equal opportunity. Vocational education programs are not required for accreditation, therefore becoming expendable in times of budget crisis.

Example 1: Due to mill levy failure an auto mechanics program was cut from two instructors to one, making that program available to half the students of previous years.

Example 2: Due to mill levy failure a building trades program was cut from the curriculum, thereby removing an educational opportunity for some students that could lead to employment following high school graduation.

Example 3: Due to lack of funds the welding program in a district was drastically cut back, the Oxy-Acetylene phase eliminated. Once again depriving students of educational opportunity.

5. Costs for materials and supplies necessary for "hands on" vocational programs have risen sharply in the past two years.

Example: Costs for Oxygen-acetylene, etc for welding programs have increased by approximately 50%. A gas bill of \$4000 for one welding program in 1979 is projected, by the gas supplier, to be approximately \$6800 for the 1981 school year.

If we are to maintain quality in our vocational programs, local school districts will need assistance beyond ANB to insure this. On behalf of Vocational Education for our state, I ask that you seek provision for providing this assistance through House Bill 618, an enabling act for Secondary Vocational Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration of this matter.

Chairman Eudaily and members of the House Education Committee.

I am Mike Cavey, a vocational agriculture instructor for Missoula County High School, and a parent of two sons enrolled in vocational education in Missoula.

I would like to request your support for HB 618.

This bill is necessary to the state of Montana because:

1. Vocational programs are very costly to operate, yet provide skills for employment, which in turn provide a return through taxes on money earned.
2. School districts that are faced with tight budgets are tempted to cut vocational programs simply because of their high per student costs.
3. The cost of unemployment and welfare for an untrained individual is much more than the cost of training that individual for employment at the secondary level.

For the past biennium the excess costs of vocational education have exceeded 4 million dollars and are predicted to exceed 6 million for the next biennium. These costs are causing school districts to look closely (though many times unfairly) at vocational education.

At a January, 22 Missoula County High School Board of Trustees Curriculum Committee meeting, a member of the Board of Trustees said "We are looking at vocational departments by doing cost analysis, and are considering cuts based upon cost per student." Further an article in the Missoulian newspaper quotes the board as saying that some vocational programs will be eliminated or curtailed due to cost per student. I ask you is it not better to somehow bear that cost now than to partially support those individuals who have no saleable skills for Montana's job market?

In the interest of maintaining quality vocational education to train our young people for meaningful employment in Montana, I ask you to support HB 618

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ex. 8

MONTANA BUSINESS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Elfrieda Idleman, President
Billings Senior High School
Billings, Montana 59101

February 12, 1981

The Honorable Ralph Eudaily, Chairman
House Committee on Education
Montana 47th Legislative Assembly
State Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Dear Representative Eudaily:

The Montana Business Education Association supports House Bill 618.

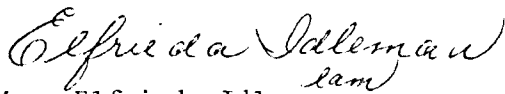
We feel this bill will provide a fair and more flexible method of allocating additional funds for vocational education to help with excess costs of these programs. We also feel it will facilitate the distribution of these funds by providing that the Superintendent of Public Instruction be responsible for the administration and accounting.

Vocational business education programs provide our Montana high school students with an opportunity to enter the job market successfully and/or to enroll in advanced classes at postsecondary institutions. Typing, office procedures, accounting, business machines, and shorthand emphasize those skills, knowledges, attitudes, and understandings required in today's business office. Approximately one out of every four high school students enrolled in business and office education classes is involved in the co-op program which provides on-the-job training.

Without the help of the State Legislature, schools would find it difficult, if not impossible, to maintain a quality program in the future. The costs of equipment, maintenance, and supplies for these classes continue to escalate.

MBEA respectfully urges our Montana legislators to continue to give our secondary students the opportunity to take advantage of vocational training in business and office education.

Sincerely yours,


Mrs. Elfrieda Idleman
MBEA President

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289

Testimony In Support of
House Bill 618

I strongly encourage you to support House Bill 618. Vocational Education is an expensive and necessary component of a sound secondary comprehensive educational system. Your support of secondary vocational education is very important if Montana is to continue to provide its young citizens with a sound comprehensive education.

As a representative of a school district which has experienced a large decrease of students in our educational system, I can assure you that vocational education is still in demand by our secondary student population. Great Falls Public Schools had a decrease of 825 students in grades nine through twelve between the 1978-1979 and 1980-1981 school years. This is based on enrollment information from the month of October. During this same time period, we experienced a decrease of only 64 student contact hours, or approximately 9 FTE, in vocational education classes.

With your support, House Bill 618 will defray a portion of the excess cost of secondary vocational education programs. This bill will provide school districts an opportunity to offer sound vocational education programs. House Bill 618 has developed a framework with delineation of operations and responsibilities. This proposed system of funding vocational education will improve our present system. House Bill 618 will enable school districts to more accurately prepare budgets and develop short and long range curriculum improvements.

Submitted by,



Willard R. Weaver

MIEA

Montana Industrial Education Association

February 13, 1981

House Education Committee
State House of Representatives
Helena, Montana 59601

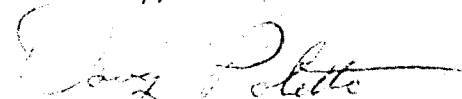
Members of the House Education Committee:

As President of the Montana Industrial Education Association I am writing to urge your support for specific funding for vocational education programs.

I have been involved with vocational education and specifically industrial arts for the past 20 years in both Wyoming and Montana with the last ten of these years as a teacher educator in the industrial education field. I have found in visiting numerous schools across the state of Montana, that one major need is generally present, that of a lack of funds to provide adequate instructional equipment to carry out the basic fundamentals of industrial education. Although the federal government has for a number of years provided some funding for these programs, this has proved to be too little and is currently being drastically reduced. Specifically what is needed is a means of providing funds that can be ear-marked for vocational programs in the school.

I would like to ask that you support legislation that would provide the youth of Montana with a reasonable opportunity to gain the necessary skills, techniques, and practices that are needed by them so they may enter the world of work with the greatest chance to succeed.

Sincerely,


Doug Polette, President
MIEA

DP/jlr



Montana Vocational Association

Box 1

1115 North Roberts

Helena, Montana 59601

February 13, 1981

House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, Montana

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

I am testifying on behalf of the Montana Vocational Home Economics Teachers urging your support for H.B. 618.

There are two types of Home Economics programs in most Montana high schools. The first type, Consumer Homemaking, is a comprehensive program including all areas of Home Economics--Food and Nutrition, Clothing, Housing, Family Relations, Parenting and Child Development. The emphasis is preparing both male and female students for present and future roles in life. We, in Home Economics, believe "Homemaking is a Vocation."

The second type is Wage Earning Classes, such as, Food Service, Child Care and Clothing Related Occupations. These courses combine classwork with related job experience so as to put into practice the skills and ideas presented in class. Through this work experience the student is introduced to possible career choices.

The following statistics obtained from the Office of Public Instruction show that enrollment is increasing in the Secondary Homemaking programs in Montana.

1978-79 Consumer H. Ec.	-	7843 students, 81% female & 19% male
Wage Earning classes	-	736 students, 68% female & 32% male
1979-80 Consumer H. Ec.	-	13669 students, 55% female & 45% male
Wage Earning classes	-	697 students, 39% female & 61% male

Although enrollment in Homemaking classes is increasing in most parts of the state, high school enrollment is decreasing. This decline in enrollment results in less foundation money available to the local level. The cost of equipment and supplies continues to increase but there is less budgeted money available to spend. Another problem we face is that most of the equipment is used throughout the entire school day. The equipment in sewing and food labs gets much more concentrated and harder use than in a home.

Because of increasing costs of supplies and equipment, Home Economics Departments are finding it more and more difficult to maintain their programs. We believe the additional money provided by this bill would help in our achieving quality programs rather than just maintaining our current programs or cutting some of our existing curriculum. A quality program will enable us to help students make wise career decisions. As everyone knows, the need is greater today than it has ever been.

Mary Gernaat
Mary Gernaat, President
Montana Vocational Home Economics Teachers

"People



Who Care"

Ex. 12

Montana Education Association

1232 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601
Telephone 406-442-4250

February 10, 1981

The Honorable Ralph Eudaily, Chairman
House Education Committee
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Chairman Eudaily and Committee Members:

On behalf of MEA vocational education teachers, we urge your favorable consideration of House Bill 618, which will provide a workable and fair method for distributing state vocational funds to Montana high schools.

Sincerely,

David Sexton
Government Relations Director

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School Administrators of Montana

501 North Sanders
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 442-2510

Ex. 13

TO: Ralph Eudaily, Chairman
House Education Committee

FROM: Jesse W. Long, Executive Secretary
School Administrators of Montana

RE: HB 618 - Allocating Funding for Secondary Vocational
and Industrial Arts Programs

The School Administrators of Montana speak in support of House Bill 618.

This legislation eliminates the cumbersome emergency budgeting process for schools receiving the funds, and allows them to expend those funds.

The bill also provides a permanent method for distributing the state appropriated funds for secondary vocational education.

An additional benefit of HB 618 is the earlier date for the distribution of the funds to the local school district.

We ask a do pass on HB 618.

February 12, 1981

Dear Chairman Udaily and members of the House Education Committee:

I would like to urge you to support House Bill 618, an enabling act to provide funding for excess costs of vocational education at the secondary level.

As a teacher of Vocational Agriculture at Powell County High School, I have the opportunity to work with students who have a primary goal of gaining some vocational skills so they can get a job. Most students in our program are not college oriented. These students find it increasingly important to get vocational training at the secondary level in order to get a job. Employers require experience and through vocational programs we are able to give our students just that. We produce students who can play a valuable role in our society and it is these students who bring revenue into our state.

However, the cost of our vocational programs continue to increase at an alarming rate. Last year alone the cost of our vocational agriculture program increased by over 17 %. A state wide analysis of vocational programs has shown excessive costs of over 4 million dollars during the last biennium. Our local school district finds it very difficult to financially support such expensive yet vital training. It is these expensive programs that will be the first to be eliminated by our local district and the price we have to pay will be great. We are eliminating essential training areas that are vital to the economy of our state. We will be eliminating the on the job experience and supervision that is provided through vocational program. And we eliminate the programs which provide leadership training for our youth. We need vocational education in our secondary schools and we need legislative funds to support the excess costs of these programs. For these reasons, I ask your support for House Bill 618.

Sincerely yours,
Cynthia Klessens
Cynthia Klessens,
Vo-Ag Instructor

CHAIRMAN EUDAILY AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE;

I am Robert W. Nelson teacher of Vocational Agriculture at Missoula County High School and President of the Montana Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association.

On behalf of the Montana Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association I ask for your support of House Bill 618.

Vocational Education in Montana is more expensive than academic education and if those of us in vocational education are going to continue to provide the state with the adequately trained work force needed for the future we need the additional funding. This additional cost is too heavy a burden on the local school districts and does not assure long term stable programs needed for adequate training. The actual costs for secondary vocational education in 1979 was \$7,094,327; of this \$1,561,618 were excess costs. In 1980 the total cost was \$8,668,995; of this \$2,600,939 were excess costs. With current anticipated inflation costs the excess costs for the years 1981 and 1982 will be approximately \$6,000,000.

For the above reasons I again urge you and your committee to support passage of House Bill 618. On behalf of the MVATA I thank you for your concern and support for vocational education.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Nelson
President MVATA



Ex. 16

FFA THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
FOR STUDENTS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

BELT VALLEY CHAPTER
BELT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
BELT, MONTANA 59412

February 10, 1981

The Honorable Ralph Eudaily, Chairman
House Education Committee
Room 129
State Capitol
Helena, Mt. 59601

Dear Mr. Eudaily:

I would like to urge your favorable consideration of H.B. 618 at this Friday's hearing.

Vocational Education in Montana high schools is a necessary and valuable educational experience for quite a number of students. Many students need vocational training to help them in obtaining a job and for some what they receive in high school is the extent of it.

I feel that partial reimbursement of qualified secondary vo-ed programs by the State is essential for them to remain active and viable. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Alden R. Irish

Alden R. Irish
Vo-Ag Instructor & FFA Advisor

Ex. 17

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M

School Administrators of Montana

**501 North Sanders
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 442-2510**

Feb. 13, 1981

To: Ralph Eudaily, Chairman
House Education Committee
From: Jesse W. Long, Executive Secr.
School Administrators of Montana
Re: HB 660 An act to decrease the distance an "eligible
transportee" must reside from a public school to
receive transportation.

The School Administrators of Montana speak in opposition
to HB 660.

We believe this bill places an additional burden on the
local taxpayer by means of a non-voted levy. The local
transportation budgets would be inflated by approximately
twenty percent.

We have mixed feelings because students are transported
with greater safety in school buses compared to walking
the edge of a busy roadway. However, if this is a
consideration why have a limit at all?

We would ask a do not pass on HB 660.

VISITORS' REGISTER

HOUSE _____ EDUCATION _____ COMMITTEE _____

BILL HOUSE BILL 618Date 2/13/81SPONSOR WILLIAMS

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
Laura Hunt	Helena	MT Home Ec. Assoc.	✓	
Loraine Louchard	Helena		✓	
Wayne Buckner	Helena	MSBA	✓	
Louise M. Olson	Helena	O.P.I.	✓	
Jim Schaff	Leicester, MT	Dist 48	✓	
Phyllis Swenson	Helena	MT Bus. Ed. Assoc.	✓	
Lillian A. McQuinn	Townsend	MT BUS. ED ASSN	✓	
Phil Brown	Butte	MT BUS. ED ASSN		
Mike Carey	Missoula	Mont. Voc. Ed. Assoc.	✓	
Alan H. Stoltz	Missoula	Mont. Vocational Assoc.	✓	
Maury Hearnest	St. Paul	Mont. Voc. NE. A.	✓	
Wilfred Warner	Great Falls	Great Falls Public Schools	✓	
William Ball	St. Albans Council Dist.	Helena	✓	
Jim Fitzgerald	Mont. Council of Local Admin.	Helena	✓	
David Sexton	MEA	Helena	✓	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.