# MINUTES OF THE MEETING JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 49th LEGISLATURE SPECIAL SESSION III

June 12, 1986

The meeting of the joint subcommittee on Education was called to order by Chairman Gene Donaldson at 8:12 A.M. on Thursday, June 12, 1986.

ROLL CALL: The roll call was called by the secretary with all members being present.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear testimony on the Community Block Grant, Board of Public Education, Fire Service Training School, Montana School for Deaf and Blind, Office of Public Instruction, Distribution to Public Schools relating to proposed budget cuts. Also discussion on the governor's recommendation for the School Foundation Program.

## COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANTS

Rep. Donaldson stated the first item on the agenda was the community block grants impact on education. He called on Pam Joehler (3-1-A 3:34) from the LFA office to brief the committee regarding this issue, see exhibit # 1, which is a report on the estimated impact of local government block grant shortfall on education entities for fiscal 1987. She then reviewed the four assumptions the LFA office had arrived at; No. 1 The legislature will not provide supplemental funding in FY 87 for the local government block grant. This will result in a \$9,751,272 shortfall in the LGBG program. No. 2 Local school districts will respond to this by not including this revenue in their budget estimates. Therefore, the state will make up the difference in the foundation and permissive program. No. 3 Other education expenditures not in the foundation and permissive program but which rely upon local property tax will be impacted. No. 4 The full six mills for the university system will be levied.

Chairman Donaldson then asked Mrs. Joehler to review for the committee the reason for the shortfall. She referred to page C-96 in the LFA analysis. She stated the legislature appropriated \$17.38 million dollars for the local government block grant, the funds were appropriated to repay the local government units for revenue which was lost in the switch from a property tax system

to a fee system of registering light vehicles. She said due to a drop in the revenue of the oil severence tax and district court ruling increasing payments to Lewis and Clark County the revenues are anticipated to be \$9.75 million dollars less than what was appropriated in FY 87. So the legislators are going to have to decide whether or not to fund that shortfall.

Chairman Donaldson asked Mrs. Joehler to explain the difference between the 107 million shortfall that LFA came up with and 87 million. Mrs. Joehler replied she would have someone else from the LFA office address that question. Chairman Donaldson then questioned Mrs. Joehler about several issues on exhibit # 1. He contended that the 3.4 million in school non-foundation would probably have a 3.4 million dollar impact on local property. Mrs. Joehler advised that would be assuming the local district didn't have any other funds to draw on.

The Chairman then referred to the \$242,000 estimated impact to the university system and questioned if that was a part of the rationale why there is a \$500,000 difference between the LFA and the university. Mrs. Joehler stated the difference is in the revenue trust, not the six mill levy.

Rep. Hand reviewed the issue as such, in 1981 the counties stopped using the evaluation method and went to the flat rate for automobiles, and made up the difference with an oil severance tax. Now since the oil severance tax has not come in there is a shortfall. Chairman Donaldson said the governor's office has taken the position that the legislature does not have to make up that amount and the LFA office advised the committee it is their contention that they are obligated to make those payments to the local entities. He stated he wanted to make the committee aware of what the impacts would be in the event those local governments are not funded.

Sen. Haffey stated the 20 million supplemental dollars that is assumed in the LFA book for other than the school foundation program includes the \$9.8 million for the local government block grant revenue shortfall. He stated that there is no increase that might have been speculated to exist in the 107.5 million because within the 9.8 million is the 2.2 million that has been identified as schools foundation and permissive.

Chairman Donaldson called upon Norm Rostocki from the office of budget and planning (3-1-A 15:44) to make the presentation relative to the governor's recommendations for the board of public education. Mr. Rostocki stated the governor's recommendation was for a 5% cut across the board.

Pam Joehler from the LFA office was then called upon to give the LFA perspective. Mrs. Joehler reffed to page E-3, and stated that the only issue that the LFA brought up was the request for supplemental legal fees incurred because of the education lawsuit.

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ted Hazelbaker, Chairman, Board of Public Education (24:00) testified before the committee at this point. He stated the board had cut all out-of-state travel and therefore had no outside resources to draw from. He advised the committee that the board was still in the law suits but they flet it was so very important to their position in the underfunded school suit. He urged to committee to opt for option A of the LFA report and fund the supplemental legal fee. He stated the board could live with the 5% cut proposed by the governor. There was a question and answer period on the supplemental income, and the total amount left in the budget.

#### EXECUTIVE ACTION

Rep. Peck moved that the 5% recommended reduction for FY 87 be applied to the board of education. The question was called, motion CARRIED unanimously.

# FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL

Chairman Donaldson again called upon Norm Rostocki to present the governor's proposal relative to the Fire services training School. Mr. Rostocki reported that the governor's recommendation was for an across the board 5% reduction in the fire services training school in the amount of \$12,227 in FY 87. The agency intends to take up this reduction with a vacant position. Mrs. Joehler advised the committee that the pay plan figure for the school was \$3,609.

Pam Joehler of the LFA office presented the LFA proposals. She referred to page E-6 of the LFA book with one issue for the committee's consideration, that being the proposed consideration of elimination of the agency. She reviewed in detail page E-6 through E-13, concluding with the following options; A Eliminate the fire services training school for a general fund reduction of \$238,541. B Place 1 FTE under the fire marshal to function as a fire education resource specialist for a general fund savings of \$204,022, and C Eliminate the general funding and increase proprietary funds by a like amount to make the agency self-supporting.

There was a question and answer period regarding the raising of proprietary funds, how other states handle their volunteer fire training centers.

Ted Hazelbaker informed the committee that there was rhetoric about changing sponsoring agencies but he did not anticipate anything happening along those lines very rapidly. He stated that the board could live with the governor's proposed 5% cut but could not live with the LFA option. He then called upon the director of the Fire Services Training School, Butch Weeden to respond to the LFA report.

Butch Weedon (3-1-B 13:04) Director, Fire Services Training School read his response, see exhibit # 2. He concluded his statement with the following "the fire service is the first line of defense for Montana citizens - be it a high rise, wild fire or residence fire, earthquake, building collapse, hazardous materials emergency, heart attack, auto accident, or a cat in a tree. The public depends on the fire service, the fire service depends on the Fires Services Training School".

A question and answer period followed relating to the training of field service instructors, certification, and moving the audio-visual program into another area.

Chairman Donaldson inquired of the committee if they would want to eliminate any of the options for discussion that had been presented.

#### EXECUTIVE ACTION

Sen. Haffey stated that rather than eliminate options in the LFA book he would make a motion that the committee accept the governor's proposed reduction in the fire services training program of 5%.

Sen. Haffey continued by saying he thought this was an appropriate time to consider the analysis on the fire services training school along with that on the extension service and the ag. experiment station, that the analysis should provoke a lot of thought.

Rep. Moore called the question on Sen. Haffey's motion and said he would like to make another motion afterward in regard to the fire services training school. Rep. Peck stated he would like to support what Sen. Haffey said emphasize that there are some ideas contained in the LFA report that need to be pursued, and that the information that Mr. Weedon is providing in the five-year program may be of great help but it needs to be addressed during the regular session. The question was called, motion CARRIED unanimously.

#### EXECUTIVE ACTION

Rep. Moore moved to retain Option C, and have the LFA and the fire training services people confer to determine if the general fund could be further reduced by proprietary funds. He stated it would not be to retain Option C as it reads, eliminating all the general fund, but to strike a balance. Chairman Donaldson questioned Rep. Moore if he intended his motion for this special session. Rep. Moore replied yes. The Chairman repeated the motion the motion to read that within this special session an effort be made by the LFA, Mr. Weedon and others to see if there are some proprietary funds that might be picked up. Sen. Hammond contended that would just be putting a tax back on the local people. The question was called, motion CARRIED by a 5 to 2 vote.

#### EXECUTIVE ACTION

Rep. Moore moved to eliminate option A and option B. Chairman Donaldson stated the effect of that motion would be that the committee would not consider at this point the closure or reduction to one FTE of the fire services training school. The question was called motion CARRIED unanimously.

Chairman Donaldson then opened the hearing for public testimony. Since the options A and B had been eliminated from consideration during this special session, he stated the only issue they would be dealing with in this special session would be the possibility of proprietary funds replacing general fund.

The first witness to testify was Vern Erickson. He thanked the committee for their consideration and said he would be available at a later date for any information.

The next witness to testify was Bruce Suemran, Missoula Rural Fire District thanked the committee for their concern for the fire service training school.

Lyle Nagle, President of the Montana State Volunteer Fire Fighters Assn., testified next. He referred to option C and asked the committee to consider that of the 445 volunteer fire departments in the state of Montana, a lot of them have no source of funding other than donations, and that would put a burden on them if they should have to pay for their resources.

The next witness to appear before the committee was Glenn Black, representing the Montana Fire Chiefs Assoc. He spoke in support of the Montana Fire Services Training School.

The last witness to testify was Frank Gremaux, Asst. Fire Chief in Lewistown and a member of the advisory council to the fire services training school. He thanked the committee for their support of the school and said it was essential we have this organization.

Chairman Donaldson called for a ten minute break at this time.

Upon reconvening the Chairman informed the committee there would be groups of girls from Girls State who would be viewing the hearings. He then moved into the School for Deaf and Blind.

#### DEAF AND BLIND SCHOOL

The Chairman requested Norm Rostocki to give the governor's presentation on the deaf and blind school.

Norm Rostocki, from the office of budget and planning reported that the governor's proposal was to reduce the budget by 5% at the deaf and blind school. He stated this would result in a reduction of 2 of the FTE consultants that provide outreach and educational activities for visually handicapped and indicated the program would be offered at a reduced level. He then referred to the reduction in audiological testing of public school children, and said those are the two areas in the

governor's package that would be included in the 5% reduction. Chairman Donaldson inquired if that amount was \$135,540. That figure was affirmed. He then asked what the figure was for the potential loss of pay plan. Bill Sykes reported that the pay plan for FY 87 is roughly \$102 thousand dollars from general fund and \$11 thousand dollars of other funds. Totaling \$113 thousand dollars for the school.

There was a brief question and answer period concerning testing in the audio-visual programs and bidding on audiological services.

Chairman Donaldson then called on Jim Haubein to give the proposals from the LFA office (3-2-A 17:55). He handed out exhibit # 3, an analysis of FTE for the school of deaf and blind. He reviewed the exhibit in detail. He reported that since the two FTE positions were contingent upon the enrollment increasing by 10 students and it had only increased by 5 the LFA has raised the issue whether those positions should be continued in FY 87.

The Chairman then noted that the girls from Girls State had arrived, he explained to the group what had transpired prior to their arrival and what the committee would be hearing from that point. He encouraged the girls to ask any questions they might care to. He then asked Mr. Haubein to continue with his report.

Mr. Haubein submitted that the committee may wish to consider the reduction of the 1.46 teacher positions for a general fund savings of \$42,320 in FY 87. He said the second issue deals with area of student services, particularly in the cottage life attendants. He then moved into the third issue that the LFA had raised concerning the audiology services reduction. He reviewed the options that the LFA had proposed on pages E-16, E-20 and E-21 of the LFA book.

Ted Hazelbaker, Chairman, Board of Public Education (3-2-A 39;00) was called on to lead off the testimony. He stated there was a board subcommittee that met at the school once every three months, with administration, with staff and with parents and made the recommendation that Mr. Demming will be presenting to the committee.

Robert Demming, Superintendent of the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, testified next. He handed out exhibit # 4, the proposal that was selected by the Board of Public Education following the campus meeting with administration, faculty and staff. Mr. Demming read his prepared statement, exhibit # 4 to the committee. He stated that the board is requesting an agency exemption from funding reductions at the school in order to provide mandated services for the children presently being served by the school. He then asked Bill Sykes, business manager for the school address the LFA budget proposal for the school.

Chairman Donaldson requested Mr. Demming to review the schools plans relative to the 5% cuts. Mr. Demming stated that the 5% reduction proposal as requested by the governor totals \$135,549. The school is proposing a reduction of \$49,912 in the itenerant consultant program and \$85,637 from the hearing conservation program for a total of \$135,549.

Rep. Peck questioned Mr. Demming about the press reports stating the legislature had cut the budget for the school for the deaf and blind when in fact it had been raised. Chairman Donaldson stated the increase to the school per se 1985 to 1987 was 9.7% for the record.

Bill Sykes, Business Manager, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, addressed the LFA report. (3-2-B 17:20) He stated he wanted to address the two issues raised in the LFA budget analysis. Refer to exhibit # 6. He concluded that the school projects to revert to the state between \$30 to \$35 thousand in general fund for FY 86, which results from a utility savings and more vacancy savings than was needed.

Lucille M. Krajacich, Principal, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. Miss Krajacich addressed the need for the two pre-school teachers. Refer to exhibit # 6, page 2.

The next witness to testify was Richard Gebo, Dean of Students, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. Mr. Gebo read his prepared statements to the committee, see exhibits # 8 and #9. He concluded his statements with requesting the committee to give serious thought to the effect the proposed \$71,000 cut in the cottage program budget would have on the quality of services the school is able to provide.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the fluctuation of the population at the school. The question was asked if the board would have the authority to cap the enrollment in order for the legislature to set a budget.

Sen. Haffey welcomed the next group of girls from Girls State and explained what the purpose of the subcommittee meetings are.

Mr. Demming handed out exhibit # 10, an annual survey of eligible handicapped children in state institutions at this point. He stated that the students are identified by initial only and they remain confidential. Rep. Hand inquired if Mr. Demming could give a synopsis of the report. Mr. Demming informed the committee that the report lists the children that are at the school by sex, by handicapped conditions, by age and the children served in the different regional areas by the resource consultants, as well as the children served by the parent-infant programs to the visually impaired and the hearing impaired babies in the state.

Chairman Donaldson questioned Mr. Demming about option A regarding the reduction of general fund savings in the audiology portion of \$187,000. Mr. Demming restated that on the part of the board, he would request that they do not reduce the audiology program. He said that Darrell Micken and Bill Sirak were present and he would like to have them address that issue. The Chairman said there was some discrepancy as to the base that was being used. It was decided that Jim Haubein and Bill Sykes would meet during the lunch break and resolve that amount.

There was a question and answer period concerning the reduction of one class for audiological screening. Chairman Donaldson inquired if what had been done was to reduce the classes tested but increase other services. That was affirmed.

Steve Gettel, President, Parent-Teacher House Parent Assoc. of Montana School for the Deaf and Blind was the next witness to testify. He stated because of the continued budget cuts and vacancy savings the school is no longer able to provide adequate or appropriate service to the 116 students at MSDB or the more than 240 students serviced statewide. He advised the committee that at present the funding is not sufficient for the school to meet section 504 of the federal access law or section 20-8-102 of the Montana codes. He said the school is lacking in transportation facilities, speech and physical therapy staff. He concluded his statements by calling on the legislators to exempt MSDB from any and all budget cuts.

Mr. Gettle asked the committee if they would exempt the school from any vacancy savings and return to the school those funds necessary to rebuild staff positons and educational budget needed to meet the mandates of all state and federal laws as they apply to the special education of hearing and visually impaired children during the regular session in January.

Chairman Donaldson inquired if any of the girls from Girls State had any questions they would like to ask. He then adjourned the meeting until 1:30 P.M.

The hearing was reconvened at 1:30 P.M. Chairman Donaldson emphasized the necessity of consolidating testimony and brevity in order to hear all the testimony. He then called on Mr. Demming who in turn introduced Darrell Micken.

Darrel Micken, private audiologist, Bozeman, spoke in opposition to the proposed budget cuts to the MSDB, see exhibit #11. He proposed that there be some kind of task force set up in the near future to design a program that would better serve the state of Montana and would also maintain the integrity of what is a very fine program.

William N. Sirak, president, Northern Rocky Mountain Easter Seal Society was the next witness to testify. (3-3-A 39:00) He reviewed his written statement, see exhibit # 12, and closed by saying he would hope the committee would keep the screening program intact as much as possible.

The next witness to appear was Larry Holmquist, Director of Special Education, Gallatin-Madison Co-op, Belgrade, also representing Montana Administrators of Special Education. He addressed the resident direct service program at the deaf and blind school and said the committee needs to be aware that the Board of Public Education has reviewed that program and that budget extensively and should realize that the public schools in the special ed area have not been exempt from the cut and as a result things are being done within the public schools that have an affect on who is placed at the deaf and blind school and who is served within those public schools. to exhibit # 13. He stated they need to maintain the direct service program at MSDB and that the audiological services to the public schools must be considered for minimal cuts.

The next witness was Jim Moulds, Superintendent, Centerville Public Schools, Sand Coulee, who spoke in support of MSDB, see exhibit # 14.

Susan Lange, Parent, Great Falls, addressed the problem of inadequate physical therapy and the lack of occupational therapy at MSDB. See exhibit # 15.

The next witness to appear was Gina Rogers, teacher at MSDB and parent of a handicapped student. She read her prepared statement, see exhibit # 16.

Helen Greenlee, Resource consultant at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind was the next to testify. (3-3-B 15:00) She spoke of her concern for the 200 plus low vision or blind population in rural Montana and the proposal to reduce the consultants to one person. She stated one person simply CANNOT do the job. See exhibit # 17.

The next witness was Madalaine Geman, Director of Health Care and Services at MSDB. She spoke in defense of the health care of the school. See exhibit # 18.

Alice Guilbert, Great Falls, representing the Montana Association of the Deaf (MAD). She stated that MAD members are supportive of the school program and also provide scholarships to the graduates who want to pursue further education. See exhibit # 19. Her reverse interpreter was Tane Hippe.

The next witness was Phyllis Honka, a blind person, member of the Montana Assoc. for the Blind. She stated that MSDB is an educational facility, not a custodial and certainly not an instutition, and urged the committee to take care of the special needs children.

John Ruan, parent of a deaf student at MSDB, stated he had moved from Deer Lodge to Gt. Falls to enable his daughter to get the proper training from the school. He said he had a petition with 2300 signatures from all around the state of Montana from people requesting that the state of Montana provide funding for MSDB so the school can continue providing services that are mandated by state and federal law. See exhibit # 20.

Lucille Krajacich, Principal, MSDB testified next. She brought up the point that there are a number of multi-handicapped students that are being served by the school who were not there before. She noted that there were 67 students in the population that have secondary handicapping conditions.

Floyd J. McDowell, former superintendent of MSDB read his prepared statement in support of MSDB. See exhibit # 21. He concluded his statement by saying that if the present pattern and philosophy of penury continues, the question and decision you will be facing before very long will be whether or not the school should exist. And if the decision would be to close the school, your budgeting problems with the public school system and special education in particular, would be multiplied.

The next witness to appear was Terry Minnow, representing the Montana Federation of Teachers, she stated she wanted to add their voices urging you not to cut the budget at MSDB. She said those children did not create the budget crisis and they should not be sacrificed to solve it.

Dian Rae Burgess, mother of a deaf son, Great Falls, spoke in support of MSDB, see exhibit # 22.

The next witness was John Price, Great Falls, teacher at MSDB, spoke in support of MSDB. See exhibit # 23.

The next witness, who spoke in sign language was Teresa Gray, deaf child, her interpreter was Tane Hippe. She said she did not want the school to close because it was very important to her and she did not want to go to public schools. See exhibit # 24.

Chairman Donaldson stressed that the committee was not talking about closing the school, and that the record would show that over the years the school had received significantly higher increases than the other agencies. He exclaimed that we were here because we face a massive deficit in state government, and if it were to be solved in terms of cuts only it would require a 20% cut of every agency in state government.

Fred Quigley, parent of a deaf child, Great Falls, spoke about his concern for the disparity of the wages between the teachers in the public schools and the teachers at the deaf and blind school

Garold Schwartzenberger, D.D.S., parent of hearing impaired child, Danielle, Great Falls. Dr. Schwartzenberger read his prepared statement, see exhibit # 25. He spoke on his concern over integrating his hearing impaired daughter into the public school. He also spoke in favor of the auditory/oral approach to educating the deaf.

The next witness to appear was Stanley Marr Burgess, parent of a deaf child, Great Falls, he spoke in support of MSDB, see exhibit # 26.

Lynn Grossfield, mother of a multi-handicapped child, Helena, submitted a prepared statement, see exhibit # 27. She spoke in support of MSDB.

Ed Thomas, parent, Great Falls, spoke in support of MSDB, see exhibit # 28.

Chairman Donaldson reported for a matter of record, that since 1980 the committee had increased the funding for operation of the deaf and blind school by 62%, which does not include the new equipment nor the 1.4 million dollars for new buildings.

A letter from Patrick Lee, Director, Special Services, School District # 5, Kalispell was submitted in support of MSDB, see exhibit # 29.

Chairman Doanaldson then referred to the concerns the committee had about the data from the university system on Monday, and handed out exhibit # 30, a concise summary with each unit subscribing to the same format as to how the various cuts and proposals will affect He also handed out a proposed guideline setting priorities when making required adjustments as a result of reduced appropriations. They are as follows; 1 Rentention of student access to courses necessary for completion of their academic degrees, and retention of faculty necessary to serve that end. 2. Retention of accreditation of academic programs which are vital to the state's educational needs. 3. physical plant maintenance that would affect the health and safety of students, the faculty and the public be accomplished. 4. That core faculty, that are necessary for future quality, be retained. He explained that they are merely suggestions and the committee can add, subtract or whatever they want to do with them.

The Chairman then remarked that as the committee has gone through the various budgets they have realized there are several issues that they would like to see addressed in the January session. He suggested they develop a list of these issues.

Chairman Donaldson proceeded to move into the Office of Public Instruction presentation (3-4-A 30:00)At this point Sen. Blaylock inquired if he could address the school foundation program for a minute. The Chairman agreed to his request. Sen. Blaylock expressed his concern that the school foundation program traditionally had been heard before the House and the Senate education committees, and then the recommendation had been made to this committee, and that the procedure was being reversed at this time. He stated the foundation program is the very heart of the educational system of the primary-secondary and that the believed the House and Senate education should be where this issue is heard. He made reference to the amount of work this committee has to do and suggested they leave the school foundation program to the House and Senate education committees for their consideration. Chairman Donaldson replied that the committee was not going to hear the school foundation bills today, but what the committee was attempting to do was to ask for input from the various groups of interest as to what the impacts may be on those local school districts, relating to quality education and also what the impact will be to the local taxpayer. He stated that the committee had all of the areas to review, transportation, special ed. etc. and there was no other committee that is going to look at the total picture, which is important to do, and then to make those conclusions available to the House and Senate education committees. He explained they would not be deciding whether the 4% is going to go or not but they need to be aware of what those impacts would be.

# OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Chairman Donaldson requested Norm Rostocki to present the governor's proposal to OPI. Norm Rostocki, office of budget and planning, reported the governor recommended a 5% reduction in the OPI budget. He stated the estimate on the pay plan for the total agency is \$189,459, which is all funds, and of that \$110,000 is general fund.

Pam Joehler (3-4-A 42;00) of the LFA office referred to page E-22 of the LFA book and stated it showed a brief discription of the comparison between the governor's 5% reduction proposal. She commented that the Chairman made reference to \$1,902,600 balance, she explained that included \$112,900 in state administration portion of OPI's budget and the remaining

\$1,789,000 relates to the distribution of public schools. She reported that the LFA office had identified three issues in the state administration budget for legislative consideration. They are listed on page E-24 of the LFA book, No. 1 Vocational Education, No. 2 Audio-Visual Library and No. 3 2 Percent reduction. She presented the options the LFA was proposing on pages E-25 and E-27.

There followed a question and answer period concerning the proposed 2% reduction, the purchase of audiovisual fims and when the collection of fees for the audio-visual library were due.

The Chairman then call upon Ed Argenbright to begin the presentation for OPI.

Ed Argenbright, Superintendent of Public Instruction, remarked he appreciated the efforts of the committee and sympathized with the problems we are facing but we should also look upon the bright spot and that being the quality of schools we have in Montana. then advised the committee that the reductions he had made during the past six years had been significant, and were made in the name of efficiency and yet met the needs of the schools in Montana. He expressed his concern that if the 5% cuts are implemented, whether the quality of the schools will remain. He stated he had reduced the administration in OPI from a staff of 180 down to 120, and this cut would make it very difficult to meet the mandates of the law. He advised the committee that they are about 50% federally funded and they are using some of those federal dollars to meet state responsibilities. He urged the committee to consider what had been done in the OPI budget during the last several years and asked them to consider a 2% budget cut. The Chairman inquired how the OPI would handle the 5% cut, and Mr. Argenbright replied they would be eliminating programs and staff because they had already cut travel budgets, etc. He also referred to the additional legal expenses in-At this point in the meeting curred from lawsuits. Rep. Peck remarked he would like to compliment Mr. Argenbright on the reductions and the efficiency of his administration in OPI.

Rep. Bardanouve pointed out there was quite a bit of oppositon from the labor unions to the pay freeze and that alternative was a proposal for an early retirement. He questioned Mr. Argenbright how that would

affect OPI since he had several professional people employed. Mr. Argenbright replied that you would be replacing retirees at a lower salary and that would offset the payouts offered for early retirement.

Chairman Donaldson then called upon Ray Shackleford to make the presentation for OPI on the administration proposal.

Ray Shackleford, OPI staff member, (3-4-B 27:00) handed out exhibit # 31 in response to the LFA proposals. He briefly reviewed the staffing issue. He then reviewed the A-V library issue on page 4. The last issue he addressed was the 2% administrative budget reduction on page 5.

There followed a question and answer period concerning what the net pay-off of the contract with Encyclopdia Britannica would be, the A-V library collections, and the vacant education specialist position in Vo-Ed.

Chairman Donaldson then moved into the distribution area of OPI. Norm Rostocki informed the committee that the governor's proposal was also a straight 5% cut in that area.

Pam Joehler, from the LFA office, presented the report from that office. She stated the distribution of public schools program is a sub program within the state office that is use to account for the state funds that are distributed to public schools for special ed, transportation, adult basic ed, gifted and talented programs, etc. She said the first issue the LFA would like the committee to consider is the special education She reviewed page E-31 in detail and submitted the LFA options on page E-32. She said the second area for consideration was the secondary vo-ed grants. then reviewed page E-32 and page E-33 and submitted the following options, A - Discontinue the special secondary vo-ed grant, saving \$480,000 in general fund in FY 87, or option B - Take no action. She stated that on page E-23 there is a table that shows the duplicated cuts in the governor's 5% proposal, and that is the special ed option that the LFA proposed is duplicated in the governor's 5% cut. Therefore, if you accept the governor's reduction you would not want to consider the LFA policy option on special education.

Ray Shackleford, OPI staff (3-5-A 5:26) handed out exhibit # 32 in response to the issues raised by the LFA concerning the distribution to public schools. He reviewed the special education issue on page 1 and 2 and the secondary vo-ed grants on page 3.

There followed a question and answer period concerning the funding sources of transportation, school lunch program, gifted and talented program and the adult basic education program.

The Chairman then called upon Gene Christiaansen to address the vo-ed area. Mr. Christiaansen informed the committee that the appropriation for the secondary vo-education for the last legislature was \$1 million dollars or a 33% reduction from the last biennim. He then said that the funds appropriated in HB 500, \$1 million dollars, that the 2% reduction instituted by the governor in January did take \$20,000, which constituted a 4% cut in FY86. He stressed their opposition to the committee considering reducing seconday vocational education funds because of the number of people it does impact.

Chairman Donaldson question Mr. Christiaansen about the maintenance of effort issue. Mr. Christiaansen stated that it was a critical issue. He continued by explaining that because of the change in the vo-ed law going from the amendments of 1976 to the Carl Perkins Act, the maintenance of effort became the responsibility of the state. He advised the committee they had concurred that the dollars at the state level effort consisted of general fund, coal tax monies and the secondary monies used in excess for vo-ed programs. He stated if we reduce by \$480,000, that secondary state level appropriation, we would fall short of the 100% maintenance of effort required under the Perkins Vocational Education Act. That would put at risk a little over \$5 million funds to be received, with carry over from 86, for Fy 87 distributions. A question and answer period followed.

Rep. Peck referred a question to Judy Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Dept. of Special Services, OPI. He stated that he had returned to work as a school phychologist on a consultive basis and that the people he was in contact with were saying that OPI had a reduction in funds in special education appropriation

from the legislature. He said he sees an increase and a decline in enrollment and would like her to clarify where that information was coming from. She replied that if a district was cut, it was cut by the OPI and not by the legislature, and that a decrease in enrollment would constitute a cut in that budget.

Chairman Donaldson stated the administration and the distribution of the OPI budget had been completed and opened the hearing for public testimony.

The first person to testify was Don Waldron, Chairman for the School Administrators of Montana (3-5-A 26:49) He noted that his organization would like to go on record as supporting the deaf and blind school as it is something they rely on to take care of children they are unable to. He stated in regard to OPI they felt they had been financially cut to where the services are not what they should be and urged the committee to keep their budget intact as best they could. Refer to exhibit # 33.

The next witness to appear was Wayne Buchanan, Chairman, Montana School Boards Assoc. He stated in the interest of time he would like to second what Mr. Waldron had just said.

Eric Feaver, president, Montana Education Assoc., stated that they support OPI in its efforts to maintain its budget, and they believe there's a serious question that the OPI can continue to provide the services that our schools, teachers and children need around this state, if the budget cuts proposed by the governor or the LFA are imposed. He said the MEA encourages the committee to maintain the OPI as appropriated. He also stated in the interest of time they did not get involved in the discussion over the MSDB but would offer their support for that school and its efforts to maintain its budget as well.

The next witness to appear was Warren Stone, Belgrade, He said he was in his 29th year in experience in education, 20 of them being in government schools as a teacher, psychologist, elementary principal, federal aid co-ordinator, counselor, superintendent, university counselor, university instructor. He stated he emphatically and adamently was opposed to a tax increase, but rather government cuts. He said he wanted a reduction in size of government.

Chairman Donaldson inquired if there was any one else who wanted to appear relative to the OPI budget. Being none, he called for a break. He stated he knew there was some controvery relative to the next issue and submitted that what they were attempting to discover what impacts the school foundation program might have on local tax payers. Sen. Haffey inquired as to exactly what the agenda for the evening meeting would be. The Chairman replied they would be looking at the proposed governor's 4% freeze on the school foundation program and the impacts that the chairman has outlined. He indicated that the committee could also address any other items they wished. He emphatically stressed they would not make any decisions on the school foundation program, that they would not be hearing the school foundation program, that it would be strictly an informational meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00P.M. by Chairman Donaldson. It was reconvened at 7:00 P.M. (3-6-A 0:30)

The Chairman stated there was a comment that had not gotten into the afternoon hearing by Bob Stockton and he would like to have the committee aware of it.

Mr. Stockton reminded the committee that in the last session when the appropriation bill was being worked upon he had informed them they had not funded sufficiently for the transportation schedules they had adopted in the law to pay the state share. He said he had suggested they transfer funds from the second year biennium into the first year to make up that loss and then aske for a supplemental appropriation in January. He stated they had asked for a \$96,000 transfer into this years budget from next year's appropriation. He informed the committee that would pay the state's share minus the 2%, but it will mean they will have to come in to cover the schedules as adopted in the law next January for approximately \$200,000. There followed a question and answer period concerning the funding of the schedules.

Chairman Donaldson opened the discussion on the potential problems in the school foundation program. He called on Ed Argenbright to begin the testimony.

Ed Argenbright, Superintendent of Public Instruction, stated that he was very much opposed to freezing the foundation fund schedules. He stated that it is a myth for people to believe it would be a cut, he contended it would be a transfer from state obligation back to local obligation. He said the timing for reducing the foundation program could not be worse. It

will put the local trustees in a precarious circumstance relative to their ability to meet their financial obligations, their negotiated contracts, etc.
He submitted that this would be a back door approach
to increasing property taxes approximately four mills
across the state. He contended that the information
provided in the governor's budget book relative to
the reserves is inflated and misstated in that cash
reapporpriated was thrown in with the district reserve. He said if that attitute is used with local
school districts it would encourage that 'use it or
lose it attitude'. In closing Mr. Argenbright quoted
President Reagan "That schoolhouse is four walls and
the future".

Ray Shackleford handed out exhibit # 34. He reviewed page 2 (E-6-A 10:28) in detail, a graph on education funding relating to the school foundation program. He also reviewed the timing issue with the general fund reserve on page 6, concluding with the general fund cash balance on page 7. A question and answer period concerning borrowing from the general fund and the general fund mill difference followed.

The next witness to appear before the committee was Sharon Dickman, First Vice President of the Montana Parent Teacher Assn. Ms. Dickman read her prepared statement, see exhibit # 35. She was concerned over the erosion of the foundation program.

Chairman Donaldson then called on Dave Hunter, Director, office of budget and program planning. Mr. Hunter informed the committee that regarding borrowing funds from the general fund, you can move 87 money into 86 or you can use the interenity loan provision. He also addressed the issue of reserves. He stated that reserves are not only there every year but they grow every year and if school districts choose to use the reserves to make up for the lost revenue for a freeze in the foundation program, the money is there to do that for all except 20 districts. He continued by stating that there are other alternatives for school districts. He contended that schools can share in the situation that state government is expected to share in, and that is to reduce their expenditures. He submitted that if schools on the average would reduce their expenditures by 2.1%, which is the lost revenue as compared to their FY 86 general fund budget, they could totally take care of the loss of revenue due to the foundation program decrease. He explained that is substantially less than

than the governor is asking the state agencies to do. He said if state agencies end up with a 5% cut and also eat the pay increase that will total 8 1/4% of their budgets compared to the 2.1% reduction from the anticipated FY 87 budget from the schools. A question and answer period concerning the cash reappropriated, or reversions, increases for school districts and whether any school districts have made contingency plans to handle the 4% cut should it be taken away by the legislature.

Rep. Bob Marks, House Republican Leader, (3-6-A 37:15) expressed his concern about some school districts within his legislative district that have either very low reserves or none, and how the adminstrators in those districts will be able to do anything when their reserves are insufficient. Mr. Hunter replied that he would suggest those district have the same choice that state government has, and that is to reduce their expenditures, or they can ask their employers to come back to the table and negotiate lower wage increases than they have apparently already awarded, or thirdly they can choose to raise taxes. He said all but 20 districts have a fourth option and that is they can cover it out of their reserves.

Chairman Donaldson inquired whether a bill had been passed so that local governments can use the tax anticipation note method of borrowing during low spots in their budgets. Mr. Hunter reviewed the general provisions of that bill which allows any public entity to borrow through the department of commerce.

Rep. Dan Harrington, District # 68 stated that he opposed the move to cut the 4% out of the foundation program, that it is a disaster as far as school districts are concerned. He informed the committee that the tax base in Butte had dropped from \$58,000 to \$37,000 per mill yet the enrollment has not dropped. He said he thought the main point that should be made across the state is that the foundation program is not the only area that is being cut in the schools.

The next witness to testify before the committee was Wayne Buchanan, representing the Montana School Boards Assoc. He said he would like to get back to the basics, as they say in the schools, it should also be done in this committee. He stated that in 1948 the state legislature adopted a system of equalization, and the mechanism for that system is the foundation program.

He contended that if the foundation program is reduced, you will deprive schools of adequate money to operate or you will erode the equalization concept, and ultimately the local taxpayer is going to absorb that reduction. Chairman Donaldson asked Mr. Buchanan what alternatives a school district would have if they could not make the cuts and had no reserve. He replied he believed they could pass an emergency budget.

Don Waldron, legislative chairman for the School Administrators of Montana. He stated they opposed any reduction or withholding of the promise of the foundation schedules.

The next witness was Rodney Svee, Superintendent of Hardin Public Schools and President of the Montana Assoc. of School Administrators. Mr. Svee addressed numerable issues during his presentation. He handed out exhibit # 36 and noted that there are 116 districts that have reserves less than 15%. He spoke in opposition to the reduction of the school foundation program.

Chris Mattocks, Superintendent of Schools, Cut Bank, was the next witness. (3-7-A 7:34) He read his prepared statement, see exhibit # 37. He concluded his statement with "To you as Legislators, I say we are ready to help. But don't cut the Foundation Program. Don't expect us to make bricks without straw. Those cuts in the Foundation Program directly affect your kids...my kids...our future."

Rep. Peck inquired of Mr. Waldron, Mr. Svee and Mr. Mattocks if they could produce, prior to the formal hearing on the education committee, any objective study that correlates negatively or positively, per pupil expenditure with academic achievement. They replied they would attempt to do so.

Eric Feaver, President, Montana Education Association, testified next. In response to Rep. Peck's request he explained there probably isn't any scientific study that would demonstrate the answer he might like to have. He stressed that although Montana has a relatively high expenditure per pupil that it pays in the standardized measurements that are used in this nation to determine student performance. He stated that Montana ranks in the top ten of every measurement that is

used in the nation. He contended that the sparcity factor in Montana is one of the major reasons for that cost, and that perhaps at some time in the future the legislature would like to address the issue of the 114 single teacher schools we have in Montana in a nation that has only 780, or the 550 school districts that we have in this state in a nation that has only 15,000. He emphasized that whereever we cut, whether it be the foundation program, special education, vocational education or transportation, the costs are essentially transferred back to the local district. He addressed a number of issues relative to education in Montana.

The next witness to testify was Tom Bilodeau, Director of Research, MEA (3-7-A 33:06) read his prepared statement, see exhibit #38, in opposition to the proposed 4% cut to the foundation program.

Terry Minnow, representing the Montana Federation of Teachers was the last witness to appear. She stated they are in total opposition to the freeze in the foundation program.

Chairman Donaldson announced the meeting will convene at 8:30 A.M. Friday morning in room 312-2. There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M..

GENE DONALDSON, Chairman

# DAILY ROLL CALL

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SUB- COMMITTEE

# 49th LEGISLATURE SPECIAL SESSION III

Date JUNE 12 1986

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# 49th LEGISLATURE SPECIAL SESSION III

# ROLL CALL VOTE

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For	COMMITTEE		
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Misty Lynn	MSDB	X	
Pam Stuckey	MSDB	X	
Sara Stuckey Seth Stuckey	MSDD	X	
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David Wise		X	
Hary Gettell	MSDBP	X	
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PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

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Glenn Black	Montanz Fire Chiefs Assa FIRE SERVICE TRAINING	X	
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Lee P. Bright	FIRE Service Training	<u> </u>	
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PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

# WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME DALLO A LAU
NAME <u>DAVID A. LAY</u> BILL NO  ADDRESS <u>BOX</u> 272 <u>ULM</u> , <u>M</u> . 59485 DATE 6-12-36
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? MS OS
SUPPORT MSD/3. OPPOSE AMEND
PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.
MR chairman, members of the Committee I have a son that attends MSOB. He is a boy any
parent would be proud of. At 16 he is a leader of both his hearing and deaf friends. Is well
or with his hearing and deaf friends. Is well accepted in his community church and school. I saw fast fall he vecame the test week Buy Savut to ever attain the Coveted rank of Eagle here in mit.
now despite his own whitily and talents, He as well as all other children attending in \$ 05 are about to have their education effectied.
the problem caused by lacency savings and will dery him an equal education
We as adults hold the future of these shildren in own hands. I urge you to give them en equal chance it it was

# WITNESS STATEMENT

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SUPPORT		OPPOS	SE	AMEN	D
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#### WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME Pain Q. Stucken BILL NO. MISDB of ADDRESS 304-324 St. Sc. Great Falls MT59465 DATE 6/12/86
ADDRESS 304-334 St. Sc. Oreal Fulls MT59465 DATE 0/12/86
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? Mont Sch-Deaf, Blind
SUPPORT OPPOSEd to cuty AMEND
PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.
Comments:
I Teach spech at the School for the Deaf, and I wish to make the point that education of deaf students and education of hearing students are two entirely different technologies and therefore; not interchangeable. A teacher certified to teach treating students is not able to teach a deaf child who may be in her classroom if the School for the Deaf wire closed due to severe cits.
I have been married 15 years to a deaf person, so I have come into contact with many of the myther about the invisible hondical diagnost. One of the mother that I wish to dispet today is that the regular public school classroom teacher can somehow accommodate a day child among her other, heaving students. Thus has been shown to he a myth many many times, regardless of the few exceptional cases glamorized on television. The teaching methodic to break through the died child's language barrier are not provided to regular classroom teacher during their certification process. Knowing sign language is, of course, a past must, but beyond that, () knowledge of developmental
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+ March Trans andmonals and started and their processes for
are not part of the regular classroom teachers knowledge. The public school teacher cannot just "make-do" for the deaf child; she must know
there wills throughly.  The mours of the committee, let me fit this situation of the deaf wind atting in a dubic school into a scenario that is probably familiar to you personally. How did you you the first time you mit to deaf print to you wanted to talk with them I right? But you side not have for town for said factory communication. If you attempted to gesture and the any person modeled politicly, that you feel that you still had not getten you message source? This you feel madequal? Aid you can find you the public school con the figure of the public school con the figure of the first of the public school con the first of the public school con the first of the first of the first of the public school con the first of the
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in the public school.

by the way, I grow up in Bozeman, but moved away for 25 years. After I completed my Ph. D. in deaf, education, I returned to this state, hoping for good jobs in this beautiful setting. Now, because of the critz, I may not have a job next year. This is a pity.

PamQuesenberry Stuckey, Ph.D.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Educational Subcommittee:

My name is Bill Salonen and I am from Great Falls. I worked at the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind from 1980 to 1985. I was a classroom teacher for hearing-impaired children in the primary deaf department of the school. In 1985, after five years at the school, I realized that financially, I could not stay at MSDB. I enjoyed my job very much and deaf education has always been my first love, but with a Master's Degree and five years of experience at the school, I could not support my family on my teaching contract of \$16,100 a year. This year I was employed as a second grade teacher with the Great Falls Public Schools. My salary was \$20,476. A difference of well over \$4,000 a year.

My wife, Susan, was employed by the State of Montana at MSDB this year. She has worked for five years as an interpreter at Great Falls High School where the deaf high school students are mainstreamed into the public schools. She has a college degree and has received additional training through an interpreter training program in Minnesota. After five years at the school, she is still making less than ten thousand dollars as a full-time employee! The salaries at MSDB need your attention!

This summer I am going to further my education by taking a few classes at Northern Montana College. It will cost me a few hundred dollars to take 9-10 credits. During my time at MSDB, I also had the desire to further my education. However, with no training facilities in Montana and very few in the Northwest, I went back to a college in Maryland for three consecutive summers to get my Master's Degree. The total cost of my program was a little more than \$9,000. The staff at MSDB is expected to have the training and yet what compensation is made for the terrific costs involved in traveling out of state to receive the required education? Who can incur the costs of \$2-3,000 for summer school, only to return the next fall to a \$2-300 raise? This situation needs to be remembered when looking at salaries.

People have left professional positions at the School for the Deaf and the Blind, and they will continue to leave. Already this spring, three interpreters, including my wife, have resigned. How many people in Great Falls or in Montana have the quality of sign language and interpreting skills needed to fill these positions? The school can certainly not draw people from out of state with a salary package of less that \$10,000. Jobs are being affected and I believe the education of the children at the school is too.

This leads me to another area I would like to address—that of materials and textbook supplies. This fall, the Great Falls Public Schools will be adopting a new reading series in grades K-6. The Houghton-Mifflin series they are replacing had a 1976 copyright. After ten years, materials are being totally replaced and updated. Last year with my second grade deaf

Page 2
Testimony - Bill Salonen

children, I was using a Ginn and Company reading series with a copyright of 1969! They are still using this series with no immediate hopes to replace it, due to the financial situation of the school. The series has long been out of print, with no way of ordering consumable workbooks and other materials. With the recent changes in the field of deaf education over the past ten years, using a reading series that is seventeen years old is an embarrassment and an insult to teachers and students alike.

In conclusion, I would hope that this testimony would be viewed as that of someone who is not directly affected by what happens at the school. I do not have a job to protect. I do, however, have a great concern for the children who attend MSDB. I believe you should share this concern, and I urge your support of the programs of the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

William Salonen



Skyline Center-Special Education 3300 Third Street N.E. Great Falls, Montana 59404 (406) 791-2270

June 11, 1986

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My comments on the Hearing Conservation Program in the Great Falls Public Schools are based on three points of reference. I have been involved with the program as a Speech Clinician who made referrals for hearing evaluations and provided services to hearing impaired children. I have also been personally involved in the Hearing Conservation Program with my own child who has had numerous middle ear problems. But most importantly I speak to you today as Coordinator of the Speech and Hearing Services for the Great Falls Public School System.

During the 1985-86 school year, 8,513 students were screened for possible hearing problems as part of the Great Falls Public Schools Hearing Conservation Program. Fortunately for tax payers, parents, teachers and primarily for the students, our services did not stop with the screening program. I am concerned that the proposed budget cut of \$187,500 will, not only reduce the population screened, but also negatively affect other services provided by of the Hearing Conservation Program.

Obviously, the screening portion of any Hearing Conservation Program is vital because that is where we locate the students who are in need of further services. However, the "meat" of a Hearing Conservation Program lies with the students who fail the screening, fail the rescreening, and then require a diagnostic evaluation. A Hearing Conservation Program must be designed not only to identify students with hearing problems but also to accurately report to parents, teachers, and physicians the status of the child's hearing; to make appropriate referrals to other support staff, ie., speech clinicians, physicians, and special education teachers; to make recommendations for educational placements; and to provide appropriate amplification.

Based on the State's total HCP budget and the total students screened, it was determined that the cost per child for screening in Montana is \$7.71. Obviously, a portion of the \$7.71 per child is actually used for other components than screening, such as diagnostic evaluations. It is my concern that with the proposed cuts, that "piece of the pie" left for diagnostic and prescriptive programing is not adequate. With the proposed reduction, it is evident to me that the Great Falls Public Schools will not have the funds available to provide the required screening, diagnostic evaluations and follow-up with the students being identified as hearing impaired.

I urge you to continue to support the Hearing Conservation Programs in the State of Montana at the current level of funding.

Sincerely,

Christie Deck, Coordinator Speech and Hearing Services

Great Falls, IM.

237 REV. 84 ARTCRAFT PRINTERS 1985

## SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND



# STATE OF MONIMA

CHERALIC CONTRACTOR

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TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR



TO:

MEMBERS BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

FROM:

BILL THOMAS

RE:

SDB COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR 5% BUDGET REDUCTIONS

FY'87.

DATE:

APRIL 8, 1986

Mrs. Listerud and I met with the Administrative Team at SDB on Monday, April 7th from 10:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. We discussed over fourteen proposals developed by SDB. The consensus and recommendation from our Committee to the Board of Public Education for budget reductions of 5% from FY'87 are attached.

We felt that reducing outreach services from the School and maintaining viable program offerings at the on campus facility to be the best route to go. We also are asking for an agency exemption from this 5% cut as well as any further reductions.

The group also has several back-up positions, should more drastic reductions be required in Special Session.

I feel it was a most productive meeting and  $\boldsymbol{l}$  urge the Board to accept these recommendations.

I also met personally with the SDB staff from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. and had a very good, open discussion of the budget situation with them.

# SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND



# SIATE OF MONIANA

391CENTRAL AVENUE

GREATEALLS MONTANA 5940

(406) 453-140

LED SCHWINDEN GOVERNOR



TO:

DAVID L. HUNTER, BUDGET DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAMING PLANNING

FROM:

ROBERT J. DEMING, SUPERINTENDENT

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND

RE:

REQUEST FOR AGENCY BUDGET REDUCTION PROPOSALS

DATE:

APRIL 15, 1986

A 5% reduction in appropriations for FY'87 general fund for this agency was addressed by the subcommittee of the Board of Public Education on April 7th and by the Board of Public Education in a conference telephone call on April 14th.

Attached to this narrative are the requested B-212's reducing our agency's FY'87 general fund.

The Board's Committee is recommending two (2) philosophical approaches to the funding reduction request;

- (1) The agency will reduce its outreach programs for hearing impaired children and visually impaired children on a state-wide basis.
- (2) The agency will keep intact the on campus programs now serving hearing and visually impaired children from across Montana.

In reducing our capability to provide it inerant consultant services state-wide by \$49,912 we will have one (1) consultant left to serve over 190 visually impaired students in some 100 school districts in Montana.

By reducing audiology services provided by the Montana Hearing Conservation Program by \$85,637, we will reduce the capability of adequately screening the children in all of Montana's public and private schools by some ten to twelve percent state-wide.

To maintain compliance with 20-8-101 through 120 RCM, as well as Montana Special Education Rules and Regulations and PL 94-142 and Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act, the Board proposes to reduce peripheral services provided by the school to both the hearing and visually impaired children of Montana, on as near an equal basis as possible.

The Board, in studying programs offered to hearing and visually impaired children in Montana, by this agency, want to bring to your attention staff positions eliminated due to funding in recent years at the School:

- 1 Assistant Superintendent
- 1 Principal Visually Impaired
- 1 Supervising Teacher Primary-Intermediate
- 1 Supervising Teacher Junior-Senior High 1 Child Study Team Coordinator (1/2 time)
- 1 Career Education Coordinator (1/2 time)
- 2 Itinerant Consultants
- 2 Assistant Deans Cottage Life

In addition to these administrative reductions there also have been reductions in teaching staff, speech therapy staff, counseling staff and secretarial services. Through those ten years, the number of students served by the agency, on campus, has maintained at between 117 to 130 and the out-reach population has grown from a total of 200 to over 300 children receiving itinerant consultative services.

With this proposal before you, Mr. Hunter, the School for the Deaf and Blind will not be able to provide the level of outreach services necessary to serve the children now being served and limited hearing screening services will be available to the children of Montana.

Finally, we request an agency exemption from this 5% reduction, as well as, any further funding reductions at the school in order for us to maintain the mandated services for children presently being served by this School.

JUNE 12, 1986 1:30 pm Mr WN. SYSTEM

It is the intent of the Legislature that in making adjustments required because of reduced appropriations, that the following priorities apply:

- Retention of student access to courses necessary for completion of their academic degrees, and retention of faculty necessary to serve that end.
- 2. Retention of accreditation of academic programs which are vital to the state's educational needs.
- 3. That physical plant maintainence that would affect the health and safety of students, the faculty and the public be accomplished.
- 4. That core faculty, that are necessary for future quality, be retained.

Exhibit 1
Pam Joebler
6/12/86

# ESTIMATED IMPACT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BLOCK GRANT SHORTFALL ON EDUCATION ENTITIES——FISCAL 1987

	AVG # OF MILLS	% OF TOTAL ES	STIMATED IMPACT
Schools-Foundation & Permissive	55.00	22.79%	\$2,222,075
Schools-Non-foundation*	84.82	35.14%	\$3,426,843
Úniversity System	6.00	2.49%	\$242,408
All Purposes	241.36	100.00%	\$9,751,272

\*Also includes Vo-Techs and Community Colleges

### ASSUMPTIONS:

- 1. The legislature will not provide supplemental funding in FY87 for the Local Government Block Grant. This will result in a \$9,751,272 shortfall in the LGBG program.
- 2. Local school districts will respond to this by not including this revenue in their budget estimates. Therefore, the state will make up the difference in the foundation and permissive program.
- 3. Other education expenditures not in the foundation and permissive program but which rely upon local property tax will be impacted.
- 4. The full six mills for the university system will be levied.

Chairman Donaldson and Sub-Committee Members:

Butch 6/12/80

During the 1983 Session, the Fire Services Training School came to this Committee with a request endorsed by the Governor for a substantial increase in funding. The demand for fire training was not being met. Evidence existed that the demand for services was 4 times that being addressed. Revenues were insufficient to provide any increase, or to continue funding the Fire Safety Education efforts, for which federal funding had run out.

Again, the Fire Services Training School returned in '85 with a substantial increase request endorsed by the Administration. This Committee approved that request, in part and later, as the budget picture became clearer, your decision had to be reversed.

During 1985, the Fire Services Training School requested and underwent a Performance Audit in hopes of bringing our funding problems to light. Of the recommendations made by the Legislative Auditor half related directly to inadequate funding, and included additional clerical support, office automation, staff training and overcrowded office conditions.

Also in that Report a survey, conducted by the Legislative Auditor reported 78% of trainees rated the Fire Services Training School's training above average to excellent. Availability of classes was the lowest rating reported in that survey. Under the heading "Ability to Provide Intended Services" I quote: "However, in order for the School to make many of these improvements, additional legislative funding is necessary."

The Board of Public Education appointed a Task Force last year, to develop a 5 Year Plan for Fire Training and Education in Montana. The group consists of MACO and League of Cities and Towns representatives, fire service leaders and Senator Manning. That Plan, like the Governor and Legislative Auditor will call for increased for funding of the Fire Services Training School.

Given our limited funding, the School in conjunction with the Fire Services Training School Advisory Council has narrowed it's focus. In the past, we went from department to department on week nights and trained fire fighters on basic skills. Not many departments were covered due to limited travel funds. To reach every fire fighter and provide minimal levels of training was recognized as an impossible task.

We began scheduling classes on Saturday and Sunday, catering to our volunteer audience (94%). We staged training in strategic locations, asking fire fighters to drive 50 to 100 miles or more. We concentrated on training instructors who could take their skill back to their own fire fighters. We also concentrated on fire officers. In fiscal year 1987, of

the 64 courses scheduled, 56 are for officers and instructors, 5 for driver/operators and 3 for fire fighters.

We could train fire fighters with all our resources and never get beyond basic training. Or we can train trainers and attempt to provide competent instructors in as many local fire departments as possible to train fire fighters in basic skills. The latter has been identified as the most cost effective approach by the Fire Services Training School and it's Advisory Council.

But training is only what we do on weekends. We operate and are developing the Professional Certification Program, Manual Program, Resource Center, publish a newsletter and manage the Instructor Network to support the training and educational needs of the fire service. We also develop courses and training materials. Staff members all share in these activities when not delivering training.

The State now faces dramatic cutbacks. You are faced with difficult decisions. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst's options listed for the Fire Services Training School are extreme. If any one is implemented, the resulting damage to local fire services will require years to repair. Montana would see (states a Stevensville Fire Chief,) "leveling off and deterioration" in the performance of volunteer fire departments.

The figures quoted in the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's Report are our figures, but those figures represent only the tip of the iceberg. A survey conducted by the Fire Services Training School for the Fire Training Task Force provides a much different picture.

We have 6 FTE, but there are over 100 active instructors working without compensation in the Fire Services Training School Program.

We trained 1,700 fire fighters, but our instructors in the field report training over 11,000.

The Fire Services Training School has offered 718 hours of instruction in 1985, while our field instructors provided over 10,000 hours.

Our Staff trained no one in basic skills, but our field instructors trained 1,133 in that 30 to 90 hour course.

Our Staff trained 57 in Essentials material, while our field instructors trained over 2,000.

The Fire Services Training School trains more Montana fire instructors than all other agencies combined (NFA, Lands, EMS, LEA).

And of those instructors, 56% now deliver 60% more instruction as a result of their training.

If our Resource Center was only a lending library, consolidation with some other library could be considered. The Fire Services Training School Resource Center is much more. There are 3 former fire chiefs on Staff who respond to technical questions and give advice to local officials, there are over a thousand books, tapes, movies, slide/tapes, transparencies, lesson plans, instructor guides, student workbooks, instructor kits, and hardware such as: nozzles, hose, masks, video camera, dirty, wet, collapsible tanks, off loading jets and the like. Even if OPI or the State Library could handle such loans, in such a variety of formats the borrower would still have no fire service person to recommend training aids. Furthermore, the Fire Services Training School Staff has built and/or developed many of these aids. This would no longer happen. Local fire companies have made donations of materials to the Center, for the benefit of all local departments who use the Center.

Each time we have come before this Committee, the topic of proprietary operation has arisen. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst has raised it again. I urge you to consider who would gain or loose if such operation were implemented. Our service audience is 94% volunteer. They have other full time jobs; bankers, farmers, gas station attendants and several undertakers. They protect their communities from fire without compensation, they raise funds to pay for apparatus and equipment. They pay their own way to Fire Services Training School Courses. Should we add to their burden, the cost of the State Fire Training Program?

The fire service is the first line of defense for Montana citizens - Be it a high rise, wild fire or residence fire, earthquake, building collapse, hazardous materials emergency, heart attack, auto accident, or cat in a tree.

The public depends on the fire service, the fire service depends on the Fire Services Training School.

UNDE 11 . MMANJUNE 12, 1986

BLIND	FTE
AND	Analysis -
THE DEAF	
SCHOOL FOR	Personal Services

	Fiscal Year End 1985	Change	Sub Committee Recommendation	Change	July 19, 19865	Change	April 11,
Administration	5.25		5.25		5.25	(.25)	5.00
General Services	6.50		6.50		6.50	(.75)	5.75
Student Services	26.72	.75	27.47		27.47	2.73	30.20
Education Center	2.21	(.75)	1.46	(1.46) >	1		!
Admin. Hearing	1.00	•	1.00		1.00		1.00
- !>	3.92		3.92	.73	4.65	(1.73)	2.92
Chapter I	2.19		2.19		2.19		2.19
Chapter II	4.42		4.42	.73	5.15		5.15
Multi-Handicapped	1.46		1.46		1.46		1.46
Itinerant Services	2.92		2.92		2.92		2.92
Interpreter Tutor	8.10		8.10		8.10		8.10
Support Services	4.65		4.65	(.73)	3.92		3.92
Athletics	.38		. 38		.38		.38
Blank	3.59		3.59		3.59		3.59
Primary Pre-School	2.92		2.92	.73	3.65		3.65
Intermediate	2.92		2.92		2.92		2.92
High School	2.92		2.92		2.92		2.92
Pre-School	1.10	1.46	2.56	(1.46)	1.10		1.10
Jr. High	2.19		2.19		2.19		2.19
Education Substitutes				1.46 -	1.46		1.46
Total Education	46.89	1.46	47.60		47.60		45.87
Total FTE	85-36	1-46	<u>86+82</u>		86-82		86-82

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

Robert Deming



# STATE OF MONTANA

3911 CENTRAL AVENUE

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59401

(406) 453-1401

TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

## Testimony

Education Committee - Thursday, June 12, 1986 10:30 A.M. Room 312-A

Mr. Chairman - Members of the Committee - for the Record - I am Bob Deming Superintendent - Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind.

I am presenting to you today the proposal selected by the Board of Public Education, following the schools Committee from the Board spending a day on campus with administration and staff, reviewing over fourteen (14) different proposals to reduce by 5% the FY'87 budget. It contains two (2) philosophical approaches:

- (1) The school will reduce its outreach programs for hearing and visually impaired children on a state wide basis.
- (2) The school will keep intact the on-campus programs now serving hearing and visually impaired children across Montana.

This proposal reduces from three (3) to one (1) itinerant regional consultant with the Superintendent to hit the road and assume some of the loss of service to children in public and private schools.

It will reduce the Hearing Conservation Program by \$85,363. From a budget of \$673,000 to a budget of \$587,363 for FY'87.

We will not be able to provide the level of outreach services now being provided to the children of Montana. We will be limiting the hearing screening services which are now available to the children of Montana.

The Board, through me, is requesting an agency exemption from funding reductions at the school in order to provide mandated services for the children presently being served by this school.

(1)

Mr. Chairman I'd like to clear up some confusion about a newspaper story - this proposal as outlined above was a Board agenda item. The newspaper put a second area - positions vacant at the school as a result of retirements - a speech therapist and a classroom teacher - an orientation/mobility teacher - a counselor - three interpretors - a special needs vocational teacher and a child life attendant leaving for various reasons, as part of the 5% cuts. That is not true. The Board of Public Education asked me to hold these positions vacant to:

(1) help generate vacancy savings of some \$43,000 (2) to see how this special session goes and (3) to see what happens with the

(1) help generate vacancy savings of some \$43,000 (2) to see how this special session goes and (3) to see what happens with the pay plan for FY'87. You all need to know that the two areas are seperate and distinct actions taken by the Board of Public Education.

MSDB has no children - All 358 children served by this school - 116 here on campus in Great Falls - 191 in a Local Education agency - and 50 in students homes- belong to that Local School District. They are served by this school through a Child Study Team process with parent involvement, which places the child in (1) a least restrictive environment and (2) a most appropriate educational setting.

These visually and hearing impaired children represent a small percent of the total school population in Montana, and they need to have their rights protected and that is why I asked the Board of Public Education to go public to ask parents, friends, local schools, cities and you Legislators to help protect their rights to a free public education.

Mr. Chairman, I request that Mr. Bill Sykes, the school's business manager, address the LFA's budget proposal for our school.

## MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

### **OPERATIONS**

The Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind was established by the Constitution of the State of Montana in 1898. Formerly located at Boulder in connection with the Montana State Training School until 1936 when the school was moved to Great Falls. The agency is conducted as a separate and independent unit and institution of the State of Montana under the general supervision, direction and control of the Board of Public Education (20-8-101-MCA).

The school offers its students the same academic public school children receive, fulfilling the same Board of Public Education requirements. Added emphasis language development for the hearing impaired and life skills for the visually impaired. The school is expected to serve a FY'87 student population of 350 with 120 of those in Great Falls and in residence. 73 students Students are referred to the school Ъv parents. friends. relatives or by their local education agency. Any Montana resident student who is visually or hearing impaired -- from birth through age 21 is eligible for admission. residents may be admitted on a space available basis with tuition set by the Board of Public Education. Since incidence of hearing or visual impairments at birth is normally quite low, few public schools have programs deaf or blind children. A Child Study Team (CST) determines and how a sensory-impaired child can receive the best education for his handicap-in the local education agency or This process is required for all Special this school. Education students by the state plan for special education. Provided with all evaluation reports, the Child Study Team and parents, meet with a representative of their Together they determine if this school is the district. proper school for the student and (if it is) develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP) to fit the child's abilities These plans include objectives and goals for each child and are used by staff to measure progress and to help plan future programs.

While the school is not prepared to accept large numbers of multihandicapped students with severe medical problems, some special services are provided. Medical and health services include an infirmary for in-patient care, general health care instructions, physical therapy, speech. audiology, orientation/mobility, braille instruction and counseling. Every student receives a comprehensive psychological evaluation. Audiological services are provided statewide through this agency for all children in Montana, including hearing testing, evaluations, counseling related to use of

amplification and auditory training. The school provides outreach parent/infant programming to parents and public schools in Montana. Communications training for staff and parents is provided. The school occupies an 18 acre campus on Central Avenue in Great Falls. There are eight (8) main buildings including classrooms, instructional media center, administration, shop, home economics, boiler house, visually impaired wing, two residential cottages, one for primary/elementary and one for junior/senior high school students, a food service kitchen, dining room, physical therapy center, swimming pool, splash pool, bowling alley, locker rooms, training room, weight room and a gymnasium floor area with a lobby.

### SCHOOL OBJECTIVES

To provide educational opportunity with residential and support services so that no sensory-impaired student for whom placement in FY'87 is appropriate is denied.

To follow-up placement and post-secondary training of graduated students.

To achieve all annual educational goals as stated on the Individual Education Plan.

To provide the opportunity to "recreate", in activities of their choice, satisfying competition and relaxation as a result of physical activity.

To maintain a program of information for parents, professionals and the general public.

To provide to each and every student enrolled at this school a quality education that will enable that student, when an adult, to become a productive and contributing member of society.

To manage expenditures for the school in a prudent, appropriate and timely manner, especially utilities and maintenance such that increases reflect only inflation and rate change, not greater use.

#### STATUTORY HISTORY

The Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind operates under the authority granted by Chapter 8, MCA - Sections 20-8-101 through 20-8-120. 20-8-101 MCA places the school under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Public Education, and 20-8-104 defines eligibility for admittance. The Board of Public Education also administers the affairs of the school with properly adopted school policies.

# SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

Exhibit
6/13/84.
Robert Dem



# STATE OF MONTANA

3911 CENTRAL AVENUE

GREATFAL: S. MONTANA 59401

(406) 453-1401

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## SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND



STATE OF MONTANA

3911 CENTRAL AVENUE

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59401

(406) 453-14

TED SCHWINDEN GOVERNOR

To:

Representative Gene Donaldson and Members

of the Education Subcommittee

From:

Bill Sykes, Business Manager / / W

Subject:

Proposed Fiscal 1987 Budget Reductions

Date:

June 11, 1986

Mr. Chairman and members of the Education Subcommittee, for the record my name is Bill Sykes, Business Manager for the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind.

My testimony will be directed to the two issues raised in the LFA's budget analysis of (1) Removing funding for the two (1.46 FTE) preschool teachers funded by the 49th Legislature, and (2) options relating to the transfer of FTE into the Student Services Program.

## PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

The LFA states in the budget analysis that the school has utilized the 1.46 FTE teachers to pay for substitutes during fiscal 1986 and since the positions were not utilized as intended, the legislature may want to eliminate the positions. The LFA's statement is incorrect. The positions were not used to hire substitutes. In the Education Program there is 1.46 FTE budgeted for position number 98301. This position number is used solely to pay for substitutes in the Education Program. Table I below indicates the number of FTE, the budgeted and projected expenditures for education substitutes for fiscal 1986.

## Table I

Education Substitutes FTE, Budgeted and Projected Expenditures for Fiscal 1986

Subprogram	FTE	Budgeted	Projected	<u>Difference</u>
Education Subsititutes	1.46	\$29,470	\$23,597	\$5,873

6)

### page 2

As indicated in Table I, there is a projected savings of \$5,873 for hiring substitutes in fiscal 1986. Therefore, the LFA is incorrect in stating the school used the two preschool teacher positions to pay for substitutes in fiscal 1986.

The LFA is correct in stating the two preschool teacher positions were left vacant. The school left these positions vacant along with three other positions (Principal of the Blind, Teacher - Deaf and Blind, and school Psychologist) to generate sufficient vacancy savings to meet the rate assessed by the 49th Legislature and to meet a projected shortfall in income from school trust lands of approximately \$50,000.

As a final note, the school projects to revent to the state \$30,000 to \$35,000 in general fund in fiscal 1986. This reversion results primarily from a savings in utilities and from vacancy savings.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to call on and introduce to the Committee, Miss Lucille Krajacich, Principal at the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind. Miss Krajacich will address the need for the two preschool teachers.

## TRANSFER OF FTE INTO STUDENT SERVICES

To aid the Committee in understanding this issue I would like to elaborate on why "C" wing was closed and re-opened, and why 2.73 FTE were transferred into the Student Services program.

Closure and re-opening of "C" wing -- The main reason behind closing "C" wing was vacancy savings applied by the 49th Legislature (approximately \$21,216). A drop in resident population from 73 to 58 allowed the school to close this wing. Subsequent to closing "C" wing, the resident population increased by 13 to 71 which necessitated re-opening the wing on January 6, 1986. Three CLA's were terminated with the closure of "C" wing and 3 CLA's were hired when the wing was re-opened.

Transfer of FTE into Student Services -- The transfer of 2.73 FTE into the Student Services Program relates back to when the school's old dormitory was torn down and the cottage complex was built. The philosophy behind building the cottages was to move from a warehouse type operation in the old dorm to a residential type setting in the new cottages.

When the school moved into the new cottages 6 additional CLA's were hired. It is for this reason and to pay for substitutes hired in the Student Services Program that the 2.73 FTE were transferred. Substitutes in Student Services, unlike in the Education Program, are not provided for in terms of FTE being budgeted. Nevertheless, when a cook or CLA is sick the school simply cannot stop serving meals or not provide supervision and care of resident children. Substitutes must be hired to provide continuity in service and to meet the liability attendant to providing for the health and well being of resident children.

The LFA's statement that the 2.73 FTE were transferred to re-open "C" wing is incorrect. As evidence, no funds were transferred with the FTE. The FTE were transferred into the Student Services Program to budget for the additional staff hired when the school moved into the new cottages and to budget for substitutes hired in the program. The LFA's option of reducing the Student Services Budget by \$71,000 would result in closing two (2) cottages and sending anywhere from 16 to 28 children home that are presently being served by the school.

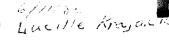
Savings from Reclassifying Positions -- The school does not calculate the same salary savings as the LFA from reclassifying the positions which is indicated in Table 2 below. The salary and benefit savings is calculated at \$22,132 instead of \$23,759.

Table 2 Savings in Salaries and Benefits from Re-classifying Positions

Current Position	Authorized Budget	Re-classified Salary	Savings/(cost)
.25 Clerk .75 Groundskeeper 1.00 Principal .73 Teacher	\$ 2,908 8,725 29,269 16,574	\$ 3,473 10,419 13,892 10,141	\$ (565) (1,694) 15,377 6,433
Total	\$57,476	\$ 37,925	\$ 19,551
Benefits excl. Health	7,587	5,006	2,581
Tota1	\$65,063	\$ 42,931	\$22,132

Mr. Chairman, I would like to call on Mr. Pete Gebo who is Dean of Students, to address in more detail the LFA's issue relating to the transfer of FTE into the cottage program.

# SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND Lacille Kingain





# STATE OF MONTANA

3911 CENTRAL AVENUE

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59401

(406) 453-1401

TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

TO: EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: Lucille M. Krajacich, Principal
RE: MSDB Budget Information Testimony

DATE: June 12, 1986

### 5 PERCENT CUT

Two positions in the Itinerant Resource Consultant Program have been slated for reduction in Fiscal Year 1987 because of the proposed 5% cut. This reduction will leave the school with one itinerant resource consultant to serve the whole state. (At one time this agency had six consultants in this program to serve the visually impaired students around the state.) This reduction will limit and/or eliminate services to a number of visually impaired students around the state, with the most severely impaired being given first priority for service.

The reductions in the Hearing Conservation Program will also limit severely the services that are given to students in the public schools of Montana. The proposed changes in the Guidelines reflect the inability of the service contractors to provide the services as previously listed. These Guideline changes do not indicate that the services previously listed were not necessary, but rather reflect the services that can be provided under the present funding. Further reductions in the funding will necessitate further Guideline changes and further reduction in services to the children of Montana from this program.

### PROGRAM COMMENTARY

At the present time, MSDB serves children on its campus and off its campus through outreach services of two types: the Parent-Infant Program and the Itinerant-Resource Consultant Program. The Parent-Infant Program serves between 38 and 45 students who are hearing impaired and of preschool age-prior to the time that they enter a formal school program. The Itinerant-Resource Program serves between 190 and 215 students varying in ages from infancy through twenty years, both before school entry and through the public school years.

MSDB's on-campus program serves 116 students ranging in age from two years through twenty years of age, in grades from Preschool through high school graduation. Of these 116 student, there are 71 who reside in the on-campus living or residential facilities, while they are participating in the regular academic programs that the school offers.

It is necessary and important to note that MSDB offers a regular program of ACLICHAL ORPORAUMITY EMPLOYEE:

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education that directly parallels the program of academic study found in public schools around the state of Montana. This programming culminates in regular high school graduation and the awarding of a high school diploma granted by the Board of Public Education.

Mainstreaming is a part of the Department for the Visually Impaired and necessitates the consultant positions which serve the students who are enrolled either full or part time in the public schools around the state. Mainstreaming is also a part of the Department for the Hearing Impaired, but because of the students need to develop language, speech and communication skills, it is not a viable part of their educational process until they have the skills necessary and this occurs normally at the start of the junior high school years. If it is determined that a student has the proper skills for mainstreaming earlier than junior high school age, then that decision is both discussed and agreed upon in the regular Child Study Team Meeting that is conducted at least yearly in fulfillment of the mandates of Public Law 94-142. (Some districts have begun the mainstreaming process early in the school year by using an interpreter in a regular classroom. Although successful in some cases, it is difficult for the hearing impaired student to use an interpreter if they do not have the communication or the language skills necessary to know what the interpreter is talking about.)

## PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

The need for additional preschool teachers still exists. At the present time there are three separate preschool areas: hearing impaired, visually impaired and multi-handicapped.

The five children in the preschool program for visually impaired children attend class with other students of primary age and are served on a rotating teacher basis in order to facilitate their individual language, reading and communication needs. In other words, this is not a separate class grouping with one teacher, but a combined preschool-primary grouping using one teacher for a portion of the day and another teacher for the other portion of the day. (It would be educationally more appropriate for these preschool students to have a teacher working with them alone.)

A similar situation exists with the multi-handicapped students. There are five students in the preschool category, with two of the students attending class only part time because the teacher in this area only has been hired for five hours per day. In addition to working with these five preschool students there were during the course of this year, from two to five additional students in this classroom ranging in age from seven to eighteen years of age, who were also multi-handicapped. The teacher in this classroom is assisted by two part-time aides who work with feeding, dressing, toileting, motor activities and classroom activities. It should be noted here that all the students in this area require assistance with all activities.

The program for preschool hearing impaired children serves sixteen children ranging in age from two years to six years of age. In addition to their hearing handicap, some of the children in this group have secondary handicapping conditions, including vision impairment, physical/orthopedic handicaps, cerebral palsy, speech impairments and disorders, and language and communication deficiencies. This group of students is taught by one teacher, who maintains two separate classroom grouping, using two separate sets of lessons plans. This teacher is assisted by two part-time teacher aides and one Foster Grandmother. (In this situation it is essential to have two classroom teachers and at least two full-time teacher aides.)

Page 3 -L.M.K.

Although teachers were not hired to work in these preschool areas, the need still exists. MSDB did not have enough funding to maintain its programs in all the other areas and hire the two preschool teachers as the legislature intended.

### SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

It is necessary when any teacher is absent due to illness to hire a substitute teacher. This includes all programs from the preschool through the high school. MSDB is an educational facility, not a custodial facility, and in order for its students to complete the course of study that is required by Montana Law, they must adhere, not only to the classes required, but also to the amount of time and the number of credits as prescribed. When a teacher is not able to teach his or her classes, there is no other place for the students to go. As in a public school situation, the children are at school for the entire school day. MSDB does have children who live in the residential facilities, but there is no staff on duty during school hours in those facilities, therefore a substitute is necessary in all classroom situations when staff absence occurs.

### CHANGING STUDENT POPULATION

MSDB currently has more than 50% of its students who have a <u>secondary</u> handicapping condition. These <u>secondary</u> handicaps include vision impairments, hearing impairment, physical or othopedic handicaps, speech impairments, learning disabilities, communication disorders and mental retardation. This varies greatly from the 1970's when students primarily had either a hearing or a vision handicap and there were only eight students who had secondary handicapping conditions.

MSDB, too, is currently serving a group of junior high school and high school students in its Special Needs Vocational Program. These students range in age from thirteen to eighteen years of age, have secondary handicapping conditions, have language skills ranging from two year old skill levels to age appropriate levels, reading levels from Kindergarten to high school level and abilities in the other subject areas that span the entire educational range. These twelve students are currently served by two full-time teachers because of their individual needs and the variation in their abilities in the academic areas. These students have been placed at MSDB for their education because of their primary handicapping condition (either vision or hearing) by the Child Study Team process and because this is considered to be the least restrictive alternative under the mandates of P.L. 94-142.

### OPEN POSITIONS

MSDB currently is holding open the following staff positions awaiting the outcome of the June 1986 Special Legislative Session: one high school teacher, one special needs vocational teacher, one speech therapist, one counselor, one orientation and mobility specialist, three interpreter-tutors, one cottage life attendant and one clerk-typist. Each of the above named positions is critical to student programs at MSDB as each position provides service in an area deemed high priority under the mandates of both state and federal law. Failure to fill any of the positions above will result in reduced essential services to students. MSDB has been reducing staff and services since the late 1970's and now there is no place to further reduce without eliminating high priority or essential services that directly influence student education.

The following are positions that have been eliminated as MSDB tries to find solutions to budget reductions and vacancy savings:

- 1 Assistant Superintendent
- 1 Principal
- 2 Supervising Teachers
- 2 Assistant Deans
- 1 Child Study Team Coordinator (½ time)
- 1 Career Education Coordinator (1/2 time)
- 3 Itinerant Consultants
- 3 Teachers (high school, junior high school and preschool)
- 1 Speech Therapist
- 1 Audiologist (½ time)
- 1 Clerk-Typist

The results of these kinds of reductions are that MSDB is not providing the level of service to its students, both on-campus and off-campus, that it was providing in the 1970's, and that MSDB is not providing the kind of services that are provided for in Montana Law and mandated by Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, and by P.L. 94-142.

It is necessary that MSDB be excluded from, not only the 5% cut being proposed, but also from any additional cuts that will be proposed. In addition, the long-term effects of continued implementation of the policy of vacancy savings needs to be examined as to its impact on the agency providing services that are mandated by law.

# SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

Exhibit 6/12/86 Richard Geba



3911 CENTRAL AVENUE

GREAT FALLS MONTANA 59401

(406) 453-1401

TED SCHWINDEN GOVERNOR

To: Educational Sub Committee Members From: Richard L. Gebo, Dean of Students

June 12, 1986 Date:

Re: Testimony



Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Richard Gebo, and I am the Dean of Students at the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind in Great Falls.

In response to the LFA's report to this Committee, I would like to present the following information and position paper for your consideration.

During the 1983 - 84 school term our move from the dormitory to the cottage program was completed. This move increased the number of student living areas from four to six and the number of staff from sixteen to twenty-two CLA's. Thus increasing the cottage program staff by six new positions. Our food service staff remained the same and the health services was decreased by one staff member.

These figures remained constant through the 1984 - 85 school year. However, at the beginning of the 1985 - 86 school term the need to generate vacancy savings and the fact that our student cottage population had dropped from 73 to 58 resulted in the closing of "C" wing.

By January of 1986 our student population had increased to 71 making it no longer feasible to maintain only five areas within the cottage program. "C" wing was then re-opened and this increased our staff from nineteen CLA's to twenty-two -- the same number that were employed during the 1983 - 84 and the 1984 -85 school terms.

The justification of our staffing needs is due to several overlapping conditions that exist within our residential program.

Students are presently grouped by handicapping condition, age, and sex. Hearing impaired children from ages three to ten function on a different level and have different supervisory needs than our visually impaired/multiply handicapped children from ages five to sixteen. Likewise, pre-teen and teenage students, although not needing as close supervision as do our younger hearing and visually impaired students, lead very active and highly mobile lives inspite of their additional handicaps.

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# Testimony Continued page 2



Statistically speaking roughly 49% of our residential population have additional handicapping conditions. If we reached a maximum number of visually impaired/multiply handicapped students (12) in "C" wing, our staffing needs would double. If our younger deaf children's area had the same population increase, it would result in our having to increase staff by at least one and a half new employees.

In order to generate a \$71,000 savings, as proposed by the LFA, there would be a need to cut an additional six positions from the student services program. The cutting of six CLA positions would mean the closure of a minimum of two cottage area.

It is with these considerations in mind that I am advising that no action be taken pertaining to the reclassification of cottage positions as proposed by the LFA.

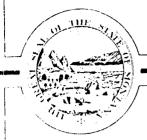
In conclusion, I would like to point out the following items to this Committee for your consideration:

- 1) Double bunking of students can not be achieved:
  - a) present beds do not permit bunking
  - b) cottage design inhibits overcrowding of students because of a lack of locker, study, and bathroom facilities.
- 2) Population alone can not determine staffing needs.
- 3) Although the cottage was designed for two children per room, sometimes, because of additional handicapping conditions, having two students to a room is not feasible. When this occurs single occupancy of bedrooms becomes necessary.
- 4) Student services function on a twenty-four hour, seven day a week basis. This includes the time the children are in school also, as food has to be prepared, medical needs have to be met, and administrative duties have to be carried out.
- 5) The School and the State are given the responsibility for the care of the students by their parents with the understanding that their children will be provided with the best of supervision, training, and care during their residency at this agency.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

## SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

6/12/86 Richard Gebo



# STATE OF MONTANA

TOTAL AVELUE

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TELESCHWINDEN GOVERNOR

To: From:

Educational Sub-Committee Members Richard L. Gebo, Dean of Students

Date:

June 12, 1986

Re:

Justification of continued funding of the cottage

program at current levels

The State of Montana has funded and supported a State School for the Deaf and the Blind since the School was established in 1893. The location of the School was changed to Great Falls in 1936, but since the time the facilities were located in Boulder, residential quarters have been attached to the program.

For the families of those children who live in or near the Great Falls area the decision to place a child at the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind does not have the same implications as for those who are seeking, in addition to the academic services offered here, the placement of their child in the care and custody of this agency during all after school hours, including play, sleep, weekend activities, and often during sickness and emotional crisis.

The State of Montana demonstrated a commitment to the kind of programming that the cottage life aspect of the School is dedicated to when, in 1981, they supported and funded the building of more adequate and expanded facilities.

It was at that point in the history of the School that a serious look was taken at the kinds of after school services we provide and that we want to continue to be able to provide. Decisions were made through consultation with professionals who were experienced in the educational, social, and emotional needs of visually impaired, hearing impaired, and multi-handicapped children. Out of state trips for the purpopse of evaluating other residential programs were made in order to better assess our needs.

The building of the new facilities a short four years ago provided the State of Montana with a model program for hearing and visually impaired children. This program is as dedicated today as it was in 1981 to the concept of providing the most appropriate and least restrictive environment possible.



There is no denying that the residential population of the School fluctuates from year to year and often from the beginning to the end of a single year. For example, student population within the cottage program stood at 58 at the end of the 1984 - 85 school year, but by January of 1986 the population had increased to 71. This increase in population made it no longer feasible to keep one wing of the cottage program closed.

Perhaps it is not possible to understand the impact of the recommended cuts in the cottage program without some insight into the services that are presently being provided.

The cottage life staff provides for the students in the residence a consistent and caring adult presence. We meet these needs through our CLA, food service, and infirmary programs.

Many of the houseparents are hearing handicapped themselves which, we feel, provides an excellent role model for the Staff in the cottages arrange for after school hours children. projects and recreation as well as providing supervision at on and off campus events such as basketball games, swimming, movies, and shopping. Although the program does provide individualized programming through our counseling component, there is not a houseparent on staff that has not been called upon by the students from their area to provide information and guidance relating to the world in general or some form of emotional support and encouragement. Houseparents play a true child advocate role in the lives of the students and maintain an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect throughout each and every students' waking hours. It is within the cottage program that the students develop their home living, personal hygiene, and socialization skills. It is through the guidance and instruction of the houseparents that they develop these skills to the highest level of their ability.

The infirmary/health services program provides for the immediate and continuous medical needs of our students on an ongoing basis. The staff deals with a wide variety of congenital health problems as well as every day medical concerns. The services of this aspect of the program extend to day students who become ill during a school day and those students who require isolation from the mainstream population due to some contagious illness.

Food service concerns include the maintaining of health and nutritional standards that establish lifelong eating patterns. It is here that meal preparation for providing food to each individual wing at breakfast, dinner, and all weekend meals as well as providing the necessary food items for various school functions and activities occurs. During the school day lunch is provided for all residential and day students in the food service building.



Children are admitted to the educational program at the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind through a Child Study Team placement. It is at that time that a determination is made by the School, the parents, and representatives of the local educational agency that the educational and/or emotional needs of the child would be better served through academic placement here. Students reside in the cottage program due to the fact that the distance from their home is prohibitive in terms of daily transporting to the School.

The cottage program is open during the normal school session, however, it should be noted that staffing for the cottage extends over a virtual twenty-four hour day, seven day a week period. The School does close during one long weekend a month inclusive of holidays.

The cottage was designed to provide a home living educational experience which is as positive and productive as possible. This was a direct rejection of the concept of "warehousing" or providing minimal supervision to a large population of children. The experience of this agency has been that although it is possible to function in such an atmosphere, it is not possible to provide adequate supervision or for the social and emotional development of fully functioning and well adjusted adults.

Our most recent Legislative Fiscal Analysts report indicated that the reclassification of positions to re-open "C" wing after a short and unsatisfactory closure was not supported by population statistics. I would like to point out that Table I reflects total student population as of January 6, 1986 prior to the re-opening of "C" wing. This figure does not represent student population at the time of the closure of "C" wing which was 58.

The School for the Deaf and the Blind is committed to the development of fully functioning and emotionally stable adults. Cutting into the direct services provided to these children through the combining of groups of children with differing needs and abilities can not possibly aid us in reaching this goal and surely will detrimentally effect the quality of life being provided to these children of the State of Montana.

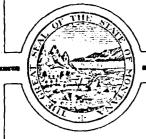
When the dormitory was torn down and the cottages erected a conscious effort was made to provide each student with a sleeping arrangement in which there would be one other student housed with them. This was done based on past agency experience and professional expertise in the field of child management and development which states that maximal emotional growth and the need for privacy and a sense of belonging are best met by students of any age when they are required to make a social adjustment to as few "roommates" as possible. This is further borne out by the standard practice of university and college programs in the building of their residential facilities in two students per room accommodations.

Ed. Sub-committee page 4



It is simply not feasible to, as the Legislative Fiscal Analysts report indicates, "double bunk" our children. Each cottage bedroom was specifically designed for two and this includes beds, desks, locker space, and bathroom space. In addition to there not being enough physical space for more children per bedroom, there is not enough emotional space in these childrens' lives and the rest of the cottage facilities — the wing kitchens, dining room tables, seating in the living rooms, numbers of chairs for use at meals, etc.

Because of the above considerations and concerns it is our request that the Committee give serious thought to the effect the proposed \$71,000 cut in the cottage program budget would have on the quality of services we are able to provide and make a renewed commitment to continued financial backing of full services to the children attending this School.



# STATE OF MONTANA

3911 CENTRAL AVENUE

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59401

(406)453-

TED SCHWINDEN. GOVERNOR

November 8, 1985

Ms. Judith A. Johnson, Assistant Superintendent Department of Special Services Office of Public Instruction State Capitol Helena, Montana 59620

Re: Annual Survey of
Eligible Handicapped
Children in State
Institutions

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Please find enclosed completed Annual Survey of Eligible Handicapped Children in State Institutions for fiscal year 1986 P.L. 89-313, as amended by P.L. 97-35, for the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind.

The original is for your office, we have retained a copy for our files. All data has been checked and certified.

If you should have any questions, please contact me at any time.

Sincerely

ROBERT J. DEMING, SUPERINTENDENT

RJD/jc

enc.:

6

## HOME TOWNS of HEARING-IMPAIRED

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Whitelish
Billings
Kalupell
Belgrade
Bozeman
Stevensville

Stevensville

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EH=Multiply Handicapped DE=Deaf-Blind SI=Speech Impaired OHI=Other Health Impaired

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OI=Orthopedically Handicapped SLD=Specific Learning Disabil

DB=Deaf-Blind

OHI=Other Health Impaired SI=Speech Impaired

ice of Public Instruction Argenbright, Superintendent te Capitol

ED-Emotionally Disturbed

MH=Multiply Handicapped

lena, MT 59620

ANNUAL SURVEY OF AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS OPERATED OR SUPPORTED BY STATE AGENCIES

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SLD=Specific Learning Disabil OHI=Other Health Impaire!

OI=Orthopedically Handicapped DB=Deaf-Blind

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and of Montana

Fifice of Public Instruction

Fid Argenbright, Superintendent

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ANNUAL SURVEY OF AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS OPERATED OR SUPPORTED BY STATE AGENCIES

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HH = Hard of Hearing =Mentally Retarded D=Deaf VH=Visually Handicapped

=Emotionally Disturbed OI=Orthopedically Handicapped

SLD=Specific Learning Disability
OHI=Other Health Impaired

DB=Deaf-Blind

SI=Speech Tempaired

A=Multiply, Handicapped

ice of Public Instruction

d Argenbright, Superintendent

te Capitol

alena, MT 59620

ANNUAL SURVEY OF AVERAGE
DAILY ATTENDANCE OF HANDICAPPED
CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS OPERATED OR
SUPPORTED BY STATE AGENCIES

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E OF INSTI	TUTION	ONTANA	SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF	AND THE BLIND		
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MR=Mentally Retarded D=Deaf HH=Hard of Hearing VH=Visually Handicapped

ED=Emotionally Disturbed OI=Orthopedically Handicapped SLD=Specific Learning Disabi
MH=Multiply Handicapped DE=Deaf-Blind SI=Speech Impaired OHI=Other Health Impair

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Argenbright, Superintendent ctc Capitol

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ANNUAL SURVEY OF AVERAGE
DAILY ATTENDANCE OF HANDICAPPED
CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS OPERATED OR
SUPPORTED BY STATE AGENCIES

E OF INSTITUTION Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind

Helen Greenlee		November 5, 1985
s report prepared by		Date
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ertify that the informat	ion on this form is, t	o the best of my knowledge, complete and
A knowingly fals	se claim on this report	is a criminal offense under U.S. Code,
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R=Mentally Retarded D=I	Deaf HH=Hard of Heari	ng VH=Visually Handicapped /

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ANNUAL SURVEY OF AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS OPERATED OR SUPPORTED BY STATE AGENCIES

$^{1}$ E	OF	INSTITUTION

MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

Fred Bischoff	November 5, 1985	
is report prepared by	Date	
Jac P Min 11-14		
DITTETCATION BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICED		

ertify that the information on this form is, to the best of my knowledge, complete and urate. A knowingly false claim on this report is a criminal offense under U.S. Code, tle 18, Section 1001 or Section 287.

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#### WITNESS STATEMENT

MT. DERFR BLIND -JONE 12, 1986 1:30 pm.

NAME	Davrell J.	Mickey		BILL NO.
				DATE 6-912-86
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SUPPORT	TOO REFREDENT.	OPPOSE		AMEND
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CS-34	and of Prof	Surkey (p-	tun (1110	the reduce to

cost of later direct interrection at the school hood and nice vastly improve the skills of these children their language skills depend almost interil on their hearing ability. Their learning ability is directly dependent on their language skills.

thank you!

#### WITNESS STATEMENT

MT. DEAR 8

BLIND DEHOOL

JONE 12, 1986

1:30 p.m.

name <u>Wî</u>	Illiam Wisirak	BILL NO.
ADDRESS L	+400 Central Ave	DATE
WHOM DO YO	OU REPRESENT? Easter Soal Goodwill	Endustri.
SUPPORT _	OPPOSE	AMEND
PLEASE LEA	AVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.	
Comments:	attachod	

#### HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The suggested savings of \$187,566 by testing only grades K, 1, 4 and 9 is totally inaccurate. I, too, wish it was that simple to save the taxpayers of Montana that kind of money.

The simple arithmetic in the LFA's proposal indicates a total lack of understanding of the nature and intent of the hearing conservation program.

It does not take into account the rural nature of Montana and the fact that the cost of serving a particular school is almost identical whether one less grade level is screened.

It ignores such fixed expenses as equipment cost and maintenance, postage and mailing expenses to parents advising them of screening results.

It completely ignores the cost of the education, training and follow-up services to the hearing impaired; the real guts of the program.

More can be done for the hearing impaired than most other disabilities. A relatively simple program of identification and treatment such as aural rehab or the use of a hearing aid can make the difference between a successful school year for a child and complete failure.

My own son, eleven years ago, was identified as having a hearing problem in the first grade. The program was identified as a middle ear disorder which was corrected with simple surgery. As a result, he did not need further special education services and will graduate with his class next year.

The suggested savings would make such success stories impossible.

I hope you choose to keep this cost effective program serving thousands of children in all parts of the state intact.

William N. Sirak

President

Northern Rocky Mountain Easter Seal Society

June 12, 1986 Learny Holmquist

#### WITNESS STATEMENT

$\mathcal{L}$	10.
NAME Trum X Solman, Director of	2 Spac Ca BILL NO.
14. W +: 100 1/1 Dans 2/1	
ADDRESS Tallatin Madjor Coop P.O.162 Bolly	Nake 162 DATE 6/12/86
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? Spele. Col Coop & Mont.	administrates of Spec. CX
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#### Comments:

We need to maintain the direct sevice

program at the M3DB - Because local school

district have and are cutting budgets many of the

programs for the cleaf throwing impaired have been

cut back his a result one options locally are fewer

which is resulting on our belience more & more on

the residential facility.

The D&B school had lost their psychologist

The D&B ochool had lost their psychologist because of calary issue. That person was very difficult to replace Decause of the specialized training iseaded in all professional positions we need to maintain some conspectative colores to get and keep competent stuff. We need to recruit nationally & amountain but competative.

The trudus ogical services to the public schools must also be considered for minimal cuts. We we have served the to seek of first all handicappen children we cannot meet this efficience without this service.

Members of Committee I represent Gelfmad. Zee Call. D&B has been under Body Peblic El. which has remind There situation extensively don't put a list on the numbers We are reducing in public Schools. promeding fewer service options we need the options efferred by the D&B School we cannot accept those students back no appropriate sende The School vasue a/ not meeting the 10 new students asesn't mean (The need is not out These we have a Child who should be placed - pounts unwilling to accept That options andiological needs to be maintained

Presented by Jim Moulds, Superintendent Contensille Public Schools SAND Coules, Mt

Our school District has a leaf Student Who, in the PAST has attended the M.S.D+B. Consequently I have had the opportunity To work Closley with the M.S.D+B, its administrators, tenchors and some of The Students. I have found all to be very dedicated, Co-operative & Competant. Small School Districts Such as Ours are NOT able to educate students Such With Severe Sight & Learing losses. Our Teachers are NOT trained to provide The type of Education Necessary for these Children. Yet P.L. 94-142 MANDATEN THAT all Children regardless of their MANdi CAP recieve an adaquate education. To further cut the funding of The M. S. D+B would place a terrible burden uperall local school Districts in the State & Montana, that Cannot Provide the Services MANdated by 3.1. 94-142. For Reducing Services for the handicap person may cause Numerous Isusuited by panents of the handicapped that local districts

CANNOT WIN, due to P.L. 94-142.

IN Summary, to delease services. To the handicapped very possibly would cause adverse reactions keyond belief.

I urge the Committee NOT to further @ reduce funding for the M. S. D+B.

Thank you

Sincerely Jim Mould Lever the last in grown (ele mare l'here for levenis impaired special need on SDB the effectional program officed at les an SDB Sever then the semilation of the school have Ext 15 fanget considerable phone the has been a considerable by June 12, 1956 included students with multiple impairments which by June 12, 1956 included a chance in hudgiting is programming. is it in the the the Walley Met. I would The Lad in the police of ma lequale pluseer! Therapy an the lack of the consul Thraps of MSIB. after med of the 19 5 St serious year FETTAL outs were receiving your earl Therepy the majoraly of these silver enter times a week phase they are only 200 A 2 2 2 A July Bar 20 2 A Charles The was a mantly a menusery 12 students was in med to compatent. clare y to occure, and enquired thicke required for independent dance it is acre mich is no beard There are no The shouse need for increased in were not a levelon the file of the second of the second of the second " The state of the e e didicio ser un constante - Omecon de la como di

Susan Lang

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#### WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME	Juna Koger	5	BILL NO.
ADDRESS	Set-50 13 S	1.50, Great	Fails, Alt DATE
WHOM DO	YOU REPRESENT?	M.S.D.B	
SUPPORT		OPPOSE	AMEND

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

#### Comments:

Mr. Charperson, members of the committee, my name is your Regers and I am from Great Falls. I um functioning in a dual role today. My son is a student at M.S.D. B and I am a teacher in the intermediale dept. There, They son, Naceton Penada Flores Regers is from Floredinas, Central America. He came to Montana to be educated pecause his country does not existe deaf children. We have adopted him. Hi is now a naturalized citizen of the Unite! States, There received ne language stimulation until he was 4 years on! Thearing children that e had 4 years of language stimulation, They have syntax and a vocabulary of hundreds over thousands of words. Nape that not have it is ingle word in his himin. It age 4 he carrie to M. S. D. B. wher haveng lost 4 of the most emportant years or his like for language acquisition. MSD. B. has done à magnétice et jet in giving him a commune cation system, a recabilland and instruction abdomically. M. S.DB his met his social, ensotional and educational needs. Nayo does not have the aprilie to acquire any form of skeech without formal training, this is not string to be a saidable to ham to cille and becoming a sing exercitive adult - a self sufficient tou paying autalt - Fr a tateher much, of my sont went of the other strutents at 11.5.DB The section is to do my part in executing and educated that pendent acuit. Howier, that my time is taken

lack of supplies materials. Because of past cuts and class own closures we teachers have had to absorb 2/ classes everytay thus making it more difficult to meet specific individual needs. This fall we will have to absorb an additional 14 daily classes and we are a small staff. Over children have a right to a quality equal education by experts skilled in dealing with the specific special needs of the hearing impaired or blind children. Jam impliently you to meet the needs of your deaf and blind children in Moretana that they may have an equal chance for a productive life.

Mr School DEAF 3 BLIND June 12, 1986 June 12, 1986 1:30 pm

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Helen Greenlee, and I am a Resource Consultant at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. When I began in this position five years ago there were five consultants who served the low vision and blind population in rural Montana. That number was subsequently reduced to three, and next year we're looking at reducing this number to one. My position is one of those scheduled to be eliminated, and I'm deeply concerned for my students. The three consultants are responsible for over 200 children "in the field" -- those whose vision is limited enough that they require intervention, either to be able to "make it" in their home communities, or to come to some decisions regarding academic and residential placement in Great Falls. Often the consultant is the first and only contact with MSDB, the one to whom that family, school district, or the student himself turns for advice as problems arise.

Consider for a minute just one of my families -- in Glasgow,
Lewistown, Valier or Westby. All four have blind toddlers;
all four depend on me to be there. I have been there for them
--and for scores more-- for five years. I worry about them,
and I worry about those yet to come who may find themselves
parenting a blind child, when in fact they've never even seen
one. Next, consider the low vision child sitting in a classroom
in Winnett, Nashua, Conrad, or Sunburst. What happens to
that child who cannot read regular print -- and yet some of
them are bright enough to earn straight "A" averages? Are
we now not offering that opportunity? Putting a blind child

into a public school (he is entitled to "least restrictive") and then not providing support and appropriate materials is asking him to fail. What happens to A.C.T. testing for blind juniors and seniors, to the annual "Games" which puts our students in touch with one another, to their advocacy? Who selects their taped texts, their large print or braille books, their adaptive equipment?

Eliminating outreach services to these students is isolationism; it's dependence; it's frustration; it's failure; and it's misguided. Montana has been blessed with a dynamic, productive, and contributing blind population. Our students can continue that tradition, or they can return to dependence. It really is up to us.

EDUCATION -- SUPPORT -- DIRECTION -- MATERIALS -- OPPORTUNITY

All these are provided by MSDB's outreach program. I am asking you to consider these kids who depend on us. Outreach is an absolutely vital part of the educational process for all of our blind children, ages 0 to 21, whom we are legally bound to serve. One person simply CANNOT do the job!

Helen Greenlee

## SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

June 12, 1986 Madalaine Geman

Xan



## STATE OF MONTANA

3911 CENTRAL AVENUE

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59401

(406) 453-1401

TED SCHWINDEN. GOVERNOR

June 11, 1986

Mr. Chairperson, members of the committee, my name is Madalaine Gemar and I am from Great Falls, Montana.

I am the Registered Nurse at the Montana State School for the Deaf and the Blind. Due to the remarkable progress in medical technology, babies are now alive who would previously have died at birth.

Given the increasing multi-handicapping conditions of most of our children, we need an adequate nursing staff and infirmary for their care.

We are presently serving sixty seven (67) multi-handicapped children out of a total of one hundred twenty four (124) children who have passed through our portals this school year of 1985-1986. This is a total of 54% of our children who have more than one handicap.

Of the seventy one (71) children who are residential students, thirty five(35) are multiply handicapped, or almost half (49%). We had one hundred sixteen children at the end of the school year as our enrollment.

At present, we have no night nurse and must rely on the nightwatch person who has other duties. The nurse's aides work alone on shift, providing coverage from 7:00 AM to 11:45 P.M. when the nightwatch person reports for duty.

We have no supportive medical personnel, as a doctor who makes house calls, a resident dentist, or ophthalmologist. This leaves the burden of diagnoses upon people not educated for this serious function.

Our infirmary office is a former janitorial storerooom and has no window or means of ventilation. It is not a very comfortable place to operate an infirmary from.

On the occasions when we have more than six (6) ill children due to an infuenza epidemic, or such, we utilize mattresses on the floor for additional beds.

With litigation such a popular thing today, I do not see how we could possible cut this skeleton facility and still be a viable and safe infirmary that meets the students' health needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Exhibit 120 June 12, 1986. John Ruan

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## PETITION

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# PETITION

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Tim Matter	812-505t. se, attale pt 59905
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Ken Schunde	5404 6th Aue & Great Fails MY 59405 1239 Central aux #1 auat Fails MT 59401
Francis Singues	3012 454 Am S. LYOX FOLG MT 59405
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Cally Gualic	3304 20 a Gue & Great Fall ynt 5940.
Than K. Bateman fr.	1815 214 Ave. No Cokens 1 145, Ar 54401
Karla solucio	4661 7th ave So. Islat Fally MT 594 3969 14th ave So. Spent tally MT 59405
Carlesany	3310 Borbas a. Bellunear MT 59102
Maion Jaughlin	7 3 5/ Porice = M. 18/1. 1/2 M + 503/1
deili Janall Kish	1211 6 and Key, 2nd 59105
S. Cadas X.	
Leely Faited Monrie	
Pollara Tearin	3494 Smini Pt Helona MT 59601
Chil Duhand	2704 Jung 181 Gefat Lith MV. 59404
Trille /// Michacica	groy the flooring forth that talls MT 39491

The Man of School for the Late & Blind :

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Signature Haush	Address 3433 11 AVE. 50.745 GREA	THAIS MIS
Michael /a Kint po	Ber 55 Storkie Jon Cola M	7 59422
anella Bratin	3701-109)01.65	590
Jan Hind	Star Rt Spirit Coulee Mt.	54472
Charles Texteres	P.D. Box 89 Sand Con Dea Mt	59472.
Glodistolman	Star Route Bot 21 Sand Coules	7. 7 68 400
Clad States	Saltante Del Surg Course	Tack. 59472
Dolly Kind	STAR SAMOCOWHEE	59442
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Signature of	Address	
Prijory (Sean)	800 50th Street	south, real tal
Dougl Warhon C	4402 Sit Mrs Siz	Quettall, Mit
Limithy Deven	2013 444 Avr. so.	Great Fulls
Marshop Roid Mill	3205 13th Aug So	OT PACE
Janu Marcharti	4038 5th Ave No	Augh Fulls MT
Monther Harker	1004-3 Que 100	Treat facts MT
Kinda M. Kristen	106-6 th st. 11.71.	Strat Falls, MT
	217 Revenue Di E.	thick Falls, MT
While now the	2208 Gth N 7/10	Dreak feels 12
Mitteline Julie	3232 Whale	Then Tall
(diane (Carly)	2027 4th Ave. 5.	areat Falls, MI
GARY TUR COTT	221-16 St.	Great Full no
GARY TUR COTT	712 52 vd sts	Grant Falls, Ast
frot Cook	See BET A.	Sheat Fully Usy
man Eller mene	Millegant Dal	Aut Fall MT
Soann Russell	4015-6- Aw. 5. 1305 44hAveN	File talle MT
	2308 21 Pal. So.	Great Falls MT
Men ander	614 Beth Drue	Great Falls M
TABRETHT	3309 15TH AVE So.	Great Falls M
12.000 1 20	5400 6 A Que P	GRAT FRUS MI
Joseph Jales	2224 7.1	Meet Alla hit
Ray Ell helyon.	1200 32nd St. S # 36	Swat Folls Int. 975
Mry ann Beck	113 Rivewew 5 West	Preat Falls, Mr 5
The Rome	3015 40- Are Sa.	Great Andle ort.
Have turner	431 Suntan of	It face and
Navel France	302 53rd 575	Grant Falls, MIT
James June	3408 Besondene	Great talls Bor
Kuralla Klossel	4164 62462	print fally put
Trande & proper	4124 6th Ave So.	
William A. Brodain	16 301 20th ave- 5	o. GT. Falls
Unne Brack	2116 4th ave. 50.	Great Falls, MI

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Signature	Address
Doris Valk	AW 5 B St NE
arge Darrita	716 34 av n.c.
ann Stembera	2204 Beech Dr.
George all Thoron	13/3 Park Garden Rend
Pattle & Shuman	1800-11th ST. S.W.
Mr. Mula	315 1418 SW
Intelese The dewell	1420 All 6 Th
Sugaron V	Bex104 Belf MT
Konda Nocolis a	1724 14 ale sq.
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Collicen Werow )	KR5444 Sur Prairie Est
Francy Ispraga	1718 Int Que Black Eagle
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Month Confe	2419 Carmel
James Elimon	211 51 54 5.
Ture Can Kasse.	1701 20 st 5 C24 (T. 1821) 2404 7 AGE SO
Carlo Carto Surveivery	
Tinga Beodock	1201 19 5+ 50 432 23 PO ALE N.F. GT FAILS
San Holson	141 Riverview D
January Junganes	104 3 NUE North
The state of the s	575 23 rd Aug 108,
Mary Mary Sand	The Property of Na
Flan Rami	141 Rimxview "D"
Dinge Room	733 54 57. Sec.
Kalingha (1) Beyeri	4216 414 AVE. No.
Ly Styling son	7/2 Buena
Grette In. Hanlahl	R.R.1439
Morny Mayer	1925 54 SK NW.
anne M. Hanron	2015 4 ave No.
Un andleson	#19-18 XA Que Se
Grove Genia	1317 300 Ave N.W.
Marthe Wilmson	BA 5348 GARAT Falla ACT

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Signature D	Address Q. Q.T. A.
Sten Randall	1628 814 MW.
William J. J. J. J. J.	1628 - save nu.
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four Dans	495- HOLEST Will, Roby Bollspill, Mo
Finley B. Harring	366 Liman land Comment mit
Your Charles	2 South Alde Gonad Mt.
John Stokes, Je.	Const. D. mot
Honey Johnson	25 Jarles Count but
m. J. E. Jan	708 Mt View Combad, mt
11000 1500	3516-510(coloc 20
Bonn & Hortes	#9-37th St So.
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THE STATE	3950 9th Ove 30.
August Journal	8809 WARDSO Great Falls
Cit Mattersai	2925-413/72 Na 65
Ton Balan	very levers GP
tolkouth	804 - 31th F S.
Viki Cinthony	1500 5th AUR. No CREAT Falls, MI
Sandra Midlence	2925 4" Roce M. GF. Mt.
The matterior	3616- 5 auc. So. B.7
Fleggy marsh	2514.3 Ave.n. great Fulls mi
Claime Darsott	730 40th Mb D.
Marly Chesman	3400 bare to At Jalls
fre Whisler	5509 64 Ave So for falls
Dango Shada	1901 2 Ave So G.F.
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Signature	Address
Palts M. Chiler	RP 5356 G.F. MT 59401
Drawlows Millea	Box 27 Bootlogger Trail XXY THE
Fin (14m)	Box 27 Bootlegger Trail XY 944 B115 a 10 gover. Spice dolls 59
Edine 3 Johnson	618: 12-66-15, Mica 8791
or Jany A. Dohnson	910 F. Highword Pd-Belt Moul
Linda I De Therland	200 Purious 15 If 7. Max
Mut Stalla	219-28th of Co. Ot. Falls
Part Parcet	66 coscude rd. son River 14+
Joseph S. Willianson	517 RIXEVEIN DC. E GI. Pall.
Margarit Vin De Kiel	2917- 5 ave so It Falls
Beryly landekict	RK 130X 1269 H Jally mt 59401
F. Pretry Koushi	500 g are South - 727-70
BC Tuckyou lu.	1150 Highwood No 59401
Balky Landofus	-4180 Hamood Na 59401
Mary Poule	1810 181 xcc So. 59405
Test grander	( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )
Sandy Krack S	7925 EAST NE CT FALL EGUOL
Licille Chorgen	2 9 Freichen Port Street Feel
Right MC Crab	601 Shighly Do at Jallo Mit 57's
Walls & Bull	4018 6000 J. 4. hart
Janet S. Jugg	113 Reserver HE that dolla MIT
Borett Holl. a.	261 12 and New , 6F, MT 5940
Proje Chickenshow	3216 8 161x 200 GF AST 59901
Redard all Ecolo	1425. 3 12 aur. So yered Della 54405
Aby Wang	2901 Am are NO Great Fall 58401
L. Person Browning in sing	3120 Leth Ave. So. Great Falls. MT 59405
L. Very M. Bruggemager	716 Pth Clay, SW. Gat. Falls HI SY
-du Miler	739 49 m St S. Get Tolls M.
Alamos in the bourse	1615 3. 1 Ave So Grant Fice, MT 5%
Derre R. Bein	937 36= AVC- NO Dustaly
Strong J. White	4229 CLARIL AVE. GREAT FAILS MIS
Ministry ARabej	1620 9th AVE. S. GR. Falls, MY
Brugon Market	2465 Lit Gas 1 Grat dolo 59401
Tail ( Taley	3025 7th Ave. N. Great Fall, Mt. 5
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Signature // D	Address ( ) ( )
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Ellery V. Gerberson	2913-6 Aug. So, Drest Jali, 1.
Forelyn Elloud	800-7mlane. N. 11
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albertaftaran	10.8 h St S GT Falls mf
Listra M. Jacobson	600-1371 are to good Fall and
Mary of Miller	600-13Bave & Great Folly MT #
niady Y Litor	1106-5AN 24 Fr. 625- ( Che, SI
	1/06- 15/10/10/19.
Josie a Taylory	Soul Hill ( No at
English Polarista	11310 History Da Sto
Emi Talmeston	94- Salue M
W.C. Rickman	1121.64 A.V. SOUTH GT. PAILS
Kar Ducun	3215 - 6 ave The De F
The Cakes	1306-2 Ave Sdel, 89.4.
(tob geling Sigel)	528-29 the ave NE Il Fello 5994
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manier K. Hendricks	2900-6th Que. So. "
- Borneik B. Hendicks	2900-614 AVS. S.
Constance Laberron	2908-616 ans.
Plantit C. XIMAMA	2712-0th AVL S. 11
Jesald W. Tylicenstorm	2916 Gt Rig So,
Diane & Thungton	2916 6th Ave So
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Signature Signature	Address
Colored Colored	237-16th Ave South
Tio ME CREA	14/3-13th ST. SO. GT FALLS
Thereon (5) Mun	10 10125/ 1262h 60 B mr
Clarence Samason	600.13 De ave So. 47. M.
Lako Van Rize Row	600-18 Dane 80. 42 m.
Mallace, youtherford	15-11th St do to Dreat Fells montre
Claray Outino	1506 Centrale v
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male Price	1217 Park Garden Rd Great Valla
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Patricia B. Burnell	24-194 due 2
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Signature / / // //	Address
Michael Hubelti	512 Riverview Dr. N.F. GI Folks
Darathy & Smith	2626-5ans Se.
Transact of toil	1620-1740 ave do St. Falls mr
Billed Lyler	1 1721 6 av 71, " ""
Jean of James	703 4 ch fine NW
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mark. Truck	918-10h que & 2h
Enw gene Matteucci	2012-6 ft n. M
narian Ruether	1215 le ave No 12 F.
slaa Lenise	505-3nd ave n. 7208
15/22 164 11 18 18 18 18	3001.1c+/100 N.
donneth man	POBOX 257 131ACK ENGLE MT 59414
There Hagge	Per A & State of the Fischer Trailes Ray
Old Taxon	HOP-10 GRIKS 4
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Mark Wishers	4014 Oxfor Rl Ely
Tille a Melson	2400- @ 13/2 Par Sa - Oct
Lirva Wilson	12.334 St. 70. 709 5TH AVE. 50. GREAT FALLS
Waxtor XI Juss	709 5TH AVE. SO. GREAT FALLS
Lear Travelle	120-121100 lite
Whole motaderlaston	(7179ALL-SO#4. GREAT FALLS
Clace Brownless a	120-12th st 12 City
Maries & tallick	8# - 14 th street South the
Eleanora tollisk	gill 14th Strept South Ricoti
marie y Kolis	2 \$ 18.875 ave, no. 47.3all
Fit. Cychast	1608 Summile 177.
Fleile Brown	3215-1. ate. 7

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Totalle Lock Margaret alice Anderson 1513. 311 Ave. Now.

Dot Lord , 51612, 09

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Signature of P. Palet	Address 2800 Hancred Bu	The _
33,77	1357 10 Corpe	- Bitte
- Dally Dodler	1357 10 Cope	Bulle
Kentlett est	1411 Steele	Bullo
Frage Plant Comple	7.901 THERE	BUITTE
Coarse R.Carle	135 Clover	Butte
Many Tellouis	630 Hicen acres de	Butte
(Francisco)	-10 50 Sherman	11
George Treesing	3311 Houndal	/1
Louann Eliason	1457 Sunul R1	/'
Santitle Henrich	2645 OHOWA	
Portrein 5 Berg	1218 wPlations	- Beitte
Mary Chun Larych	3620 Gladstone	- 11
Changel of place doffel	2727 Goodwin	B. Iti
Transfit of the	3208 Harvard	Buller
Tour flyfith	401 Montrose	Butle
James James	2630 Nod J.c.)	Dart fe
Wing Start 1	230 Jerell	
The state of the s	State Mascya	Bull-
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dottell mediation	3725 Dimp	Territe,
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Signatura	Address
Signature Charles a Luskow	Address  ER1389 Great Fulls, W 5940
THE FALL OF STATE OF THE STATE	
Cypithia & Matthews	10 80x 2561 GRETTILO TE 5405 10 80x 2561 Great Talls Mt 5940
Light hours	8-1 10 BUX 1422 COLONTENI 59461
Kinda jonana	50 1336 Giscot Jours Mt 37401
Thou Sucht )	20 1389 Janto Falls 11th 5680
· Willie of Jahren	PR 1354 6 F MA 5940,
River Parker	RR 1544 CF MX 59401
2 Labour	1/2 Bat OF MT TY401
Jacque K) Les	Route 1443 - G.F. Mt 59401
Berne Smith	Route 1446 G.F. Mt 59401
Myun Church	But 1873 6-14 5980
Exacts (1 To miser)	11 198
Mo, & specie	1577 Gt Mt. 59401
Voy & Murrell	RR 1582 GHHMT. 59401' RR 1583 Gt. Fails NG 59401
Miles m Diede	RR 1360 GT. 10115 MT 37401
Covena & Priede	547 Inhow Vane Bellens Mt 59/01
Christing & Peops	BOX 547 Stockett Mt 59480
Jan L. Stimber	117 Riverview law Great Jacob MT
Miane Tibesin	EDEN RIFE GREATTAILS M
Shindres Schrifer	1316 5th NEW(1) Crat Falls
Music Garille	434-24 ( We NE Great Falls 14t.
That I Hampans	1926 Cherry Rr. St. Falle, mit
Kinga P Asto	5407 4th Ine So Olf Tal
mary to Colombe	3404 Fox Farm At GI FAIK 1
mary K. Colombe	3012-7AVENO. AX Falls
Centra Telson	4425 3 Pe Ave. No -
Winger B. The fores	900 R AUS NU
M' Bridged Harlan	1502 14th St. S thout falls most RR1507 Apost falls (NT. 5740)
Suma Baleer	RR1967 Areat Falls Mt. 59401
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COUSEPARE.			
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Signature  Le le f Q. Dalyner  Shapon Praiser  Le le le le le le le le le le le le le le	Addre 3005 92 1111: 24 813:50 M		To d

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The state of the s	
17.1	A.I.I.v.
Signature	Address 2-1 1
Rathlen Sunggean	P.O. Box 782 Belgrade
Seel Jacks	fo box 923 Balgrado
La Square	P.O. Box 632 Belong de
Linny L. Callantine	BV 6.23, Beligade MT
May College	47 Mt Que My Mariana M.
Ponade Al Keekhush Ja	5400 Buent Cd Belguste Mit. 3036 Thorpe Pd. Belgygde, Mt. 59714
Linda Line	3036 Word (d. 9819100, 10, 5711)
Sense Barl - Davis	7/3 5 Black #6 Rogeman 5945
	150x 1332 Beligrade
A harman	2700 Weaver Jan Belgrade 1974
Lister A Branking	Bu Del Belinden My 7 5 5714
Mary Elylabeth Duck	746m Www Ol Hiso Stand mile 50 2
Made R North	Bay 1183 Bolerals Mit, 58714
Jack John	Dox 186 Bequale any. 57714
Hail Loker	1015 S. Willow Bozeman, MT
Bribara M Sport	Bry 1183 Belavade, Mit 59714  Doy 186 Belavade, My. 57714  1015 S. Willow Boyeman, MT  110 Kulbert Low Bryener Sut
Judy Benoly	61777 4778 17 <i>0</i> 78677744 898 1
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Krichelle Baughman	646 W. Hulbort RdV Boseman
Wella dimodusti	646 W. Harwort RdV Bogeman 312 7th Belgrade MT
Mrsma Millian	JUS, 20# Bozemas MT
Planning (CIDEX Felian	1113 Rolando 114 5-9714
Patricia A.B. inton	97 Kountz T. Ct. Bozeman MT 597
Glora O Stepan Sine New 2 Llare Dictin	97 Kountz TA Ct., Bozeman, MT 597 Box 1111 Belgrade, MI 59714 410 Shofem Ln Belgrade
Size Nerses	410 Shotom Los Beforade
Clare Wetter	2210 Britister Ar. Botromen
Concel Cluby	Box 1424 Belgrade Int 59719
Judys BOIL	Box 1424 Belopade Int 597/4
Val Olis	813 Goard Bozeman
(intag dereson	Box 1576 Bolgrado M+59714
Jan Richall	24 50 20th Karens IN
Shorese Ferrison	211 So. 20th Rosemen M. POBOXISSE Belgrade 19759.

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#### PETITION

We, the undersigned, all being Montana voters, hereby with our signatures, propose that the Legislature of the State of Montana, adequately fund the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, so that the services provided be the school can meet the Mandates of State Law (20-8-101 through 20-8-120 MCA). Federal Law (PL 94-142); and State Law (20-7-401 through 20-7-456 MCA).

Signature	Address C C/C//
Tancy & Jura	2805 6 Ave So Cit Falls
Elegnor & Hilpert	116 9 Cup S. W. Sheat "falls
M. fum (omple)	3015 8 Ave N Great Falls
Turnololy & Jennon	2901- 6 au n. Streat figells
Carol Sue Tilkes/	1607 yrs are no. At Falls.
Shuly Lennon	333 Kid 7W GFFalls
Mon M. Legleton	430 46 th st. S Male talls MT 5946
Thoron & Valtrusch	2100 Bee Rose k. Kd. 59403
ange ako	1406 3 RD/ WESTALLIPE 53 404
Karvilliamson	635 Doris Drive GT. E. 59405
Kith allison -	2909 4th Ave So Gt Falls Mt 59405
Christian )	608 2ml AVE S. WOT FILLS MT3840
Padint Balond	Starkte tout mt 59412
Sugar D. Low	3810 9th ave So apt B 9st Falls MT 594
Bum E toland	2805 6 Ave So Girt Falls, MT 59405
Swith a Flow	307 Alderson Blow TAT 59/0/
Markonia P. Fusa	1816-6 avenue South-Coest Falls ME 59405
Millebille Furn	241 Washington Blid - At Jule Mt 914
Garl W Fura	241 WASHINGTON BLVD - GREAT FAUG. MT 594
Emiles Buland	310-7-ST. NO POPAT-FAILS MT
Theres Dunnates	1425 18 LAUE SO GTFALL, MINIAMA

Montana School for the Deaf & Blind

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Abolt Kolomode	180x 273	Hacley 7100
Allie Hing	BOX 253	1) color 114 50526
Selma C. Conner	750x 843	Haslan MIT 5722
Gla Dusan	gri Box Y	Horlen net 59521
Holle adams	201 0 8 8 201 x 001	Harlen UT
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P. H. Tracer		Flarlem mt 35
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Douglas aldolluso-	BOX 1007	HARCEM, ME.
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Montana School for the Deaf & Blind

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Marchae Barrer	Pay 754 Mallen Free 59536
Colland Vannet	Do 818 Daveno, 700 59526
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Kathy Olson	Red 718 X Decelory
Vid Backer	Ker hox 126 Harron Mr.
Connie Hickel	BOX 805 Ha Dem. 71st. 59526
Supar Baldik	BUX 210 HARLEIN INT 59526
Thomas Kasmussen	Box 136 Hopeland MX. 59529
Tillaine Brunty	Bu 599 Malta, M+ 59538
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Richard Boundley	Box 579 Mouth MT 59538 1
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Philip Burne	1500 3 Que N	Cirear DaCo MT
James Willen	- R1 Box32	FI Stow Mant

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Jack SCOOL TO VO

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3.2	Address
Signature	713 & curo S Spect fell not 5840.
James Hills	
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Dania L. Syring	MJ2/2 7th five 5 Get Des C/S MIT
Michell Viennon	909 310 ave do art falls
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Montana School for the Deaf & Blind

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North College	Pot 853	Hacken	59536
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Call I Van Vous	13cx 31	Markon mit	59506
Jessie James-Hawley	PO BOX#337	Harlein, Montana	59526
Wignates Han Cy	be 337	Arckmont	59526
19an 3 Bishop	POBOX 1101,	Harlem mt 59526	
George Bostil	13-19 26	Harlin not 59526	353-2469
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Montana School for the Deaf & Blind

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Jana A. Cottingh	199 20 11 600 116	H. 1.14. Car
Theresa Hampirch	1124 Central City	XN Vaces, YEL:
Hom Rothschiller	3209 Sove Ct.	
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Pian To Wings	606 , 6 ST NO.	Set Fils.
Carl Klash	2455 - 774 Ave So	Great Fall
Jack Hany	304-8st, No.	great Jally Mt. 1
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Floy Scatt	5 Berg are Bellingo 59101
Que Mapkins	3126-664th At W. Blas 59106
Shale masking	1110 Cook Slag 7th 59102
Jan almon	4940 Larimer La RT3 Bellows MT 59105
Desolder Gendo	25 Visco Shine Billings and 59102
Dorene Dendo	920 alhalic D. Ballings 52
Harrisondo	1803 Hash Red Belling But 5470
Lawrence A Brian	2519 montage Billing,
Vanette Schewler	30 marshall De Bellings
Shen Kuch	1923 Ald Hurden Rd Belling
Linda Walks	445 Facon Pl Billion mo
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Michellie Dans	1209 Encl ST. West Billings 14th
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Signature	Address
allen C. Eyeman	906 Til anery Glasgow JAnant.
Though martin	900 St AV North Front Point File
Yarda Nichos	Bore 396 Wolf Point mt
Adverd Lymith	Bex 564 Poplan 761, 57255 Box 277 Becklor, w.
Jerdlaus V. Lindhing	Day 94 Mallicine Lake Mr. 54247
Bayer Badlyn	Box 5 Frank Amont 55226
Hayry Dentrico	BOY 326 KROCKET Mt. 542/3
Ros X. d. C. Kornoren	Box 574 Culbertson 59218 Box 138 BrockTon, 1911. 59213
Bellew & Donnwer	Rox 1565 Poplar, MT 59255
Carol a Horigwer	Box 1565 Popla MT 59255 Box 326 Brockton mt 59213
Tatricio a. Sundizim	Box 3.16 Brockton 70 3 9 213 Box 253 Fraid mr 54226
Star bunchers	to the terms of th
Frank Duffres	120× 3/29 10/11 (4) + 59/21/ 8/21 0 88 Bro-16/12 105 5/2/8
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Jusan Hander	Box 168 Bucker Mr. 58213
Hay Kans	130x 168 Bucker Pet 38213

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Carran	Address
Signature	845 avenu & - #7 Billings, mt, 5910
Jerry R. Baker	175 Change of # 1 Dillings out, 5110
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Bruce T. Kan	Bexies Thurse, mil 54044
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Lorda Contourly	2714 Myginin dance 13/95 Mt. 159102
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Signature	Address
Marcy Fasso	1159 W. Hold
Pailmkens	1117 W Pleater
Navy Faron	2926 Jours
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Bill shutel	207 W Park Butte Charles
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Signature /	Address
June Keleta	1713 Velucko line Blick like 57414
Dolla Maclorald	416 23rd Ave NE Sheat Falls 59
Tim Parmiter	723 Lincoln Dr. Great Fails 5
Betly L. Chester	1429- 134 St. So. # 2 Great Falls Mont 340
for Masterson	3332 14th the S. Sect Calls, Mt. 59405
Minch Bladered	636 Sweet In Court tolly part 69905
	23)3/5 8 REN CHEAT MENT 59400
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Motor Clock	588 Lincoln DR. Great Falls 59435
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Pile Hard	3409 7th Ave S. Great Falls, 127, 67465
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Some O. Y Linson	P.O. DOX 3844 Butto put 59702
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Jelm M. Kruel	1472 Bay Butte mt. 59 101
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Montana School for the Dand & Blind

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Cloud Kulhne	Box 37 Wolf Hour F Mt. 59201
Inna Mar Whitmus	Box 3062 NOIT Point Mt 59201
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Signature 01	Addr	ess	
Diane C. Sut	908 w Water	Lewiston MT	59457
Car Burney 10	509 Shulda	Secoustour, mo	53457
Jany Yanes	Box 793	Hilan Git.	
Luda Sederholm		delistoin	mt 5945)
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Exerce W. Steen		ce St. Leves	
Matty Jonger	P.O. Bey 3502	deurstown mr	
ricki of martin	PO BOX 1917	decostone m	
(E) grand Toge tim	1115 W Washington	Tewistown MT	594,57
hou til	310 coffen wood	Lewistral MT	59157
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Marquet Brillingsley	10/5 White and		
Bannie Stiele.	504 C Mont	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
- Richelle Olson	514 Sixth ave 11		<del></del>
Solling Senday	Rusal Lout 2		
in Shelder	Heath Shirt By 54		in 559957
Stru Celmer.	Box 432	hewistern Mt.	59457
Jan Bergstrom	131 13 Me Ja.	Lewiston, 11	
Margaret R Car			59457
ON Whilehe Mike Lea	Lesens Ron		
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Nancy & Walt	5 Mitre Theistor	Lewistown net	
Thronk Kettery	202 8th Ave So	Lewistow M	7 59457
Sollie Chara	5/6 110 Englin		NT 59450
Vilail Allende		way Lewisterin 7	
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(m Husby)	9148th AUSN	Starskin mr	.59457
	1 w. Boulevard	Lewistnews	
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Signature	Address
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Puther Starter	524 EBUD KIRNSOUN
War & Pallett	313 W Hale SY Proflem Minel
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Cirles R. Canh	-508 allison, Lewalow, my
Marilya R Liss	410 Vergenier Lunsteur The
mary (1)11ee)	Et-1 - (XOMEQUEENE)
Berty & Cloyd	302 west 4nt, gewwiaven, mt
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Garages Pryses	33 w. Consion Segustoen Pet
Line / Your and	416 801 AVR Justine MT
Chron Beigstron	PO MY 235 / LEWISTA MT.
Collades Wich	104 15to Clayo En (Xalvaloura Uf)
- China Cura	Louisland hout
Voya D Dullgun	318 w Main Semistaux Mt.
Joney y. mane	520 E Wish. Sewestern Mont.
Saulia Hilst	322 W Mais Seeses low MT
San Carlson	510 12 W. Crie - Lewiston may
Minus Proces	SIGNA W. CALD - FECUSION OF

Montaga School for the Dout & Blind

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#### PETITION

We, the undersigned, all being Montana voters, hereby with our signatures, propose that the Legislature of the State of Montana, adequately fund the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, so that the services provided by the school can meet the Mandates of State Law (20-8-101 through 20-8-120 MCA). Federal Law (PL 94-142); and State Law (20-7-401 through 20-7-456 MCA).

BUFFALO WINIFRED

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind

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# PETITION

Signature /	Address	
John & Liebe	311 Mc KINEY #307	LEWISTOWN
Jany Parlyak-	Box 1157-	Lowis town
anthony Landing	713 HURON	Lewistown
willenda Kolar	603 Brassey #123	Lewistown
Heary Mello	- 416 41 Energy	Jenny Carry
Rev East W Estam	603 Brisself # 123	1 en istony
	707 W SPINI	(ca)stoan
ipmily Schenoh	417 10. 50 dan	bevistown
Maria Smith	410 W. Idala	Lewistowo
Eliza Metta	416 - W. Evelyn	Lewis town
Santra & Worthall	24 Foundance	Leuntern "
Jan Werthall	24 Fein lane	Lewistown, MT
Nebbie Steiner	1840 Rte / BOV1810	Lewistaun MI.
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James Scott	254 College	Lowertown with
Hag the thompson	25464	Lowerteen With
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Care Brown	RP3/12/2383	demision Hit
Margaret Westhoff !	SOS E BLUGO	Lewistown, Int
Francia Westhert	.908 F Blud	Levestour mot
Donna M Westhaff	508 & Blod	Lourstoum MI
sim Notte	119 A ST	Lewishan 1917
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Thana R. Theraed	3/23 / Que South.
Debora L. Smith	816 48 St 20.
Mari Q. Bugstron	1816 12 Aug. So.
Veletine Cultins	3025 8 ave 30
Run D. Melann	3626 5th Come 30
C. Kay Yescher	1608 7 1STW. New Str Great Halls
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in noite dolmannon)	an the A Nin 12 to to 112
heri terrie	2921 5th Use. 10. Great Falls
L'acid Neikens	3200 21d RVE Sc. St. falls
Shopie When	RR BOX 5231 Gt Falls
Ondere ( Demes)	705 55th St. Sa. Quent talle 401
5 1 L W 14 D	3217 11th Ara S - Cot- Fall MT 59413
Thom Schroed	807 54 D St. So. #3 - Went Falls Mt. 59405
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Virginia Wagner R5 Seen	32 Sand Coule Mr
Dannie C & BRES STONKI BUK	
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James Dess RR 1503 &	& Tales out.
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David Matt 3 26.21 7th 0	rente N.
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Blinaid Horling 1626 5 th a	
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Signature House policing	<u>Address</u> 675-976-96666
Steven Knogstad	524- RIVEWIE Dr. = GI
D. T. Theres	20 110mi 30
O'ppinie lice	1011 6th aux 150
Thousa Olleger	1011 6411 BURNSO 1000 150
-Milan Mitchell	637 Madison Way Ot Falls
Jehr Stanes	SIS 112 ST SE CT FAILS
Abustim Lomails	1327 - What few last Dr At 1315-
Wite I Johnson	1027 5 ave N.W At Lalls
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Signature ~	<u>Address</u> -	
Kaye (1. C) anales	All W Olive	Loyeman UT
Shila an Hocer	· Itel W College	Bounai mr
Jamy N. Saint	302 S. Willery,	Sigemen MT
TECH ROLLAN	519 5 Grand	Dozeman Mit
James a Berganis	408 S. Willson	Bozewaw MIT
11 Ray 2. Wewenton	100 Spine	Living Stor, MT
· / / / / /	212 S 5th	Wingston VIT.
The Court	1007 Se. Trag	Sperry MT
Tale Hold	320 NO MONTANTA	BOZOMA MT 59765
Bot Glass	\$10 S 12+h	11
Tan Janet	304 Couler P-	Brzewan MT 59715
aris Shar	300 Jack 54	Breense, HT
Burrley D. Fette	3111 By HERCIA	BOZEMAN MT 5971
Potalolling	1665 Relision	Berginer
Lie Born	214 S. BLACK	BOZEMAN
Pet & Collins	110 FOXFRYM Dr.	Whitefish, MY 59937
Elizabeth S. Parcels	1419 So Church	Sozoman mit
Same Stage	810-7-74 Telef	Daniel Mit
_Children Marie	343) Lui Hally rock	The state of the s
Mily (tekenmann	P.O. Beg 3541	Boyenan 117-5977
KOlker Shall	201/519	Boseman MT 59772
027 1210	BCX 011	Kingrab 114 59714
Dan Branis 2	1209 Chees 13	Bigadi en 7 50 7/4
Kut Chuentern	629 F. Mentenhell	503 may 1995
Brankare Referen	433 Nobleck	BOSCHAN MT S9115
Judita & Harrison	1010 Well Pl. #11	
Thomas Redandson	OIT Pasici)	Benen, mt 59715
Lost D. Jons	509 N. WESTERN	BOZ MT 59715
Mil Wallen	8129 Gold Dust h	il Bryene Mx: 69715
	GIO S. 13th	Boxeman, Mt. 59715
Munis Soreling Buff	RF3 Borzec	Butto 701 59701
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France card	St della mot.
Doris martin	91 Face Mit
Robert V. Confe	1114 501 C. S. B. E.
Sandya Balell	Dreat Staller Mt.
Banny n. Fital	Best Int
Hindell Stall	St. Falls MT
Janet F. Borns	Cot. Falls My
Hittie Naucason	421-4775 St Se
Amille Snyfe's	1704 41 ave N.
Sun W. Wolks	3127 449 Aus So.
Marly Johnson	4108th and S.E tent Bank
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Bitty angled	125 17tl 4 ya www.
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Marc Warty	1719 1750 1116 400 60
Maria Steamers	3010 1141 AUCSO : ADEDIC
rume of Paling	3010 114 due E. 191 30
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#### PETITION

We, the undersigned, all being Montana voters, hereby with our signatures, propose that the Legislature of the State of Montana, adequately fund the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, so that the services provided by the school can meet the Mandates of State Law (20-8-101 through 20-8-120 MCA). Federal Law (PL 94-142); and State Law (20-7-401 through 20-7-456 MCA).

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Exnor-#21 June 12, 456 Floyd McDowell

June 12, 1986

Testimony - Presented to an Education Subcommittee on Appropriation by Floyd J. McDowell

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Most of you are aware that I was formerly Superintendent of the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. I have now been retired five years and during that five years, I have kept a low profile concerning affairs of the school because I believe there is nothing worse than a "has-been" meddling in the affairs of the administration that follows. However, events during the last couple of years indicate to me that I would be remiss in my obligation as a citizen to not speak out in support of programs that affect special children with special needs.

To use a common platitude - we can not afford to not educate our children. This platitude has added implications when we are talking about children with visual or hearing impairments. Each dollar spent today can result in a ten fold saving in future years. Without educational opportunity which is enlightened and adequate, our society would end up with several hundred deaf and blind students who would be tax users throughout their life. I hardly need tell you what that cost would be. With adequate and enlightened education and training, tax payers are produced.

I do not wish to leave you with the impression that I am predicting that education for these children has 100% positive results. I can not even predict for you an exact percentage but my background knowledge and experience would allow me to venture an estimate of at least 75% success in turning out tax payers and not tax users.

The funding cuts that have been proposed for M.S.D.B. will, in my professional view, convert a school that is even now "minimally surviving" into an institutional warehouse. I want to emphasis "minimally surviving". The salary levels for professional staff is continually falling behind the averages. More and more well trained and dedicated professionals are leaving. The ones who remain, are to a great extent, those people who have been employed at the school for a number of years and have put down deep roots in the community. Others who remain are individuals who provide a second income in the family. To use these circumstances to save money is irresponsible and morally dishonest.

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McDowell Testimony June 12, 1986 Page 2

If equality and fairness in professional salaries existed at M.S.D.B. and if adequate tools and materials were provided, I would be the first one to say that any budget cuts should be applied on an equal basis. But the crucial point in this whole consideration is the effect on children. Deaf and blind children need teachers and other professionals who have These children and teachers also need special tools special training. These elements have not been lavishly provided - to the and equipment. contrary - the tools and equipment are becoming old, out-dated and in Six years ago you legislators saw fit to provide building ill repair. facilities which are exemplary, functional and attractive. But how can you run a cadillac without gasoline? I would like to challenge any or all of you to the M.S.D.B. to inspect the equipment and tools, watch and evaluate the education and training processes, interview staff parents, measure the growth and development of the children and evaluate the overall conduct and effectiveness of the school. Without this insight and knowledge your decision making processes can be flawed. Totals and subtotals on a ledger sheet do not reveal the value or A close look at the effectiveness of an agency or its programs. children who are affected is a truer measure and standard for your decisions.

This scenario that I am presenting leads my thoughts to one final point that I would like to make. If the present pattern and philosophy of penury continues, the question and decision you will be facing before very long will be whether or not the school should exist. And if the decision would be to close the school, your budgeting problems with the public school system and special education in particular, would be multiplied.

### WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME Dian Rae Buy	zess		BILL NO.
ADDRESS 725 4th Qu	R. S.W. G+FW	US Mont. 59404	DATE 6-12-86
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT?	NSDB		
SUPPORT	OPPOSE		AMEND
PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STA	TEMENT WITH SE	CRETARY.	
Commonts.			

Comments:

Mr. Chair person, members of the com-

mittee. I have very strong feelings about deaf education. I have a deaf nine year old son. and am mother to alot of Kids who leave their mothers in their home towns to come to MSDB. I also taught as a teachers aide in the deat program in Portland for four years. Deaf children, are not retarded but they do have special needs which can not be met in a "normal" classroom. I recommend that you turn the volume down on the Evening News and e how much you can understand. These special people il be able to contribute to society only with the proper ducation. Please, no more cut backs. These children eserve the education that hearing children receive. : would like address the issue of limiting the number 2 students; people move ... MSIB atracts people from ther areas because of the quality of education MSDB gives the deat & blind students. Children due transfer to différent schools due to parent job changes, marriage changes etc. these children must be surved...

Thank You

Exhibit #23

Tune 12, 1956

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

My Name is Jon Rice of am from Great talls.

I am here to testify to the effects of the Proposed budget acts or Vocancy Savings may have upon the programing at

Fire years aga our administration had the four sight to establish what is Called the "special reeds" program. The purpose of this program is to serve JA/SR Highschool students who Have Multiple Handicipps.

Some of these other Handrapping Conditions wehre such things os. Cerobal Palay of Depletier y mental retardation, Deaf Blundress, Heart Conditions, behavioral/Displine problems Oftel Mary more. The administration also had the wisdom to set-up a team teaching approach to handle the Extra derivands that such a group of students represent This Concept Prevents "teacher bound and offers

the most fleshility which is essential for appropriate programming. This programming comphasises the use of Prachele hands on expersences. The Commonly became our Class Room. Units that we developed included; Consumus Education, Living skills g adaptive P.E., Individualized Reading and Vocational exploration The goal good to give these studento experiences telhat woold help their became as malpendant as possible.

as was anticipated by der administration, the number of students with multiple Hardicaps has increased. The sine of the "special Needs" Glass will double in singe as companied to previous This is were the possibility of Budget cuts or Volavey Savings may offeet the fragraming at MSDB, My Position at the School was 1/2 of the "special needs" godustean. I have recently resigned that position and

it has been recommeded by the Board of Public Edvention not to rehire to that position as a way

to make up the imaginament

possible budget cuts-Swing The bottom line is that special needs students they no longer be getting the Geldlik programing they deserve. I garantee you I that with the Variety of Problems we had to deal with g our hands were full every day.

Atruly takes two or more professionals to effectively handle these students needs Diver the Roblem of finding experienced of the or those even willing to Jon to over burden or Burmont?

The dedicated person prescribe
on staff. If she were with

Come of the program would

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Exhibit #24 June 12, 196 Theresa Gray

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### GAROLD SCHWARTZENBERGER, D.D.S. 1818 TENTH AVENUE SOUTH - SUITE 2 GREAT FALLS. MONTANA 59405

Tune 10, 1986
Gary Schwartzenberger

**TELEPHONE 453-2611** 

June 12, 1986

Montana State Special Legislative Session Committee Montana Special Legislative Session, June 1986

Dear Committee Members:

My wife and I have come before this committee today to inform this committee of the various difficulties we have had in obtaining the best education possible for our daughter Danielle, who is hearing impaired.

Danielle became deaf as the result of an illness at age 5. She is now 8 years old and has just completed the third grade at Centerville Public School.

Since we were not familiar with the various options available in educating the hearing impaired, we took the advice of the experts and placed Danielle part time at the Montana School for the Deaf and Elind, with the remainder of her time being spent at our local public school. This arrangement was very disappointing. She progressively lost her ability to speak since the deaf and blind school uses "total communication" which stresses sign language and an interpreter as the means of communication. Speech was not encouraged. Danielle was receiving speech lessons 15 minutes two times a week. She was also not receiving adequate academic stimulation because some of the other students in her class had multiple handicaps and she was well ahead of them in many areas, since she had normal hearing and speech up to that point in time. When we asked the deaf and blind school to speed up her progress, to stimulate her more academically, to increase her speech therapy, and to encourage her to use her speech. we were told that she would have to be enrolled full time at the deaf and blind school and we would have to go before the state legislature and ask for more money for the school. When we informed the deaf and blind school that we would not enroll her at the school full time, since the school could not address her needs. we were told that they could force us to place Danielle into the school.

After some rather extensive research into the area of educating the hearing impaired, we were encouraged by the fact that many hearing impaired children, regardless of the extent of the hearing loss, can learn how to speak and use speech in communicating with others without the use of sign language or an interpreter. This is accomplished through the use of hearing aids to stimulate the residual hearing and speech or lip reading. Hearing impaired infants are now being fitted with hearing aids and by the time they start school they can communicate through speech and participate in normal activities in an integrated public school setting. Just being in a normal environment is a tremendous stimulous for a hearing imparided child to use speech.

Since Danielle had normal hearing and speech for 5 years, we felt that she would be an ideal candidate for this auditory/oral approach to educating the deaf. We wanted her to be integrated into society and not be dependent on sign language or an interpreter for the rest of her life. The avenues of becoming a productive member of society is greatly increased through the use of speech in communication.

21/

This method of educating the hearing impaired has proven to be very successful throughout the country. As more and more hearing impaired students are being integrated into public and private schools, residential schools are being phased out. Gallaudet College, which has provided a liberal arts education for hearing impaired students for more than a century, has had to accept students with no hearing disability, because of declining enrollment. Since 1982, Gallaudet has steadily lost students to other colleges, complying with laws prohibiting discrimination against the handicapped.

Needless to say, Danielle did exceptionally well being enrolled full time at our local public school with the help of a part time tutor. She is much happier and her speech has improved dramatically in the last year, although she still has some more cathing up to do in other areas.

The public school has not been very receptive in educating Danielle in an integrated public school setting. From the beginning they have maintained that Danielle should be placed full time into the Montana School for the Deaf and Elind, especially since it is so close. They would deny the right of a hearing impaired child to be educated in a public school like any other child. The school said that they would use whatever means necessary to force Danielle into the deaf and blind school. The public school referred us to the state Social and Rehabilitation Services for possible child and educational neglect for not enrolling her into the deaf and blind school. With the help of the public school, the Montana School for the Deaf and Elind, and the Northcentral Learning Recource Center, which co-ordinates special services for Chouteau and Cascade County public schools, things have been more difficult than they should be for Danielle. Instead of having to contend with these various schools and agencies, they should be more than willing to help integrate these children into the public school system and into society in general.

There are almost as many employees as students at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. It would be more logical to integrate these children into the public schools and hire a personal tutor for each one of them. Also, if the local schools were made to pay for educating each handicapped student in the district regardless of where that education takes place, these schools wouldn't be so eager to get rid of their handicapped students.

We deplore the tactics used by these various schools and agencies to try to deny the right of a handicapped child to a free and appropriate public education, like any other child. We have made contact with others in the state that are having similar problems with integrating their handicapped children. When a child has learning problems in a public school, should that child be forced into a state institution? On the contrary, the child is to be given the help he or she needs to succeed, often requiring only tender and loving encouragement. Handicapped children do not want our pity or sympathy. They only want a chance to succeed and be independent and to become a productive member of society to the fullest extent possible.

T ESS STATEMENT BILL NO. DATE 6/ aring impaired child TEMENT WITH SECRETARY. to comment on the difficulties of definitional years are had in integrating the daughter into the

in dealing with the handicap asly defend our right to choose blitics and selfish motives st interest which will affect

### WITNESS STATEMENT

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ADDRESS 725					86
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LYNN GROSFIELD LUNE 112, 1986 1:30 pm.

June 12, 1986

Chairman & Members of the Education Sub-committee

I can appreciate the difficulties you now must face in dealing with the budget issue. However, to cut funding for the Montana State Deaf & Blind School (MSDB) would be in my estimation a grave mistake.

Our handicapped children do not need a further handicap which is exactly what would happen if present services are not maintained. We as responsible adults must insure quality education for our Very Special Children. MSDB has in the past provided this quality education. When students complete their education at MSDB they are productive, self sufficient, responsible young people. You will not hear of them arguing about the 2.00 grade issue, they are so eager to learn and delighted beyond compare when after many hours of their toil and many more hours of dedicated staff time, they finally succeed! MSDB students by being self sufficient are most unlikely to seek public assistance. For these reasons we must continue to comply to both federal and state laws as mandated and fund the Montana State Deaf & Blind School is insure the continued success of our "MONTANA MADE - VERY SPECIAL YOUNG PEOPLE".

I do not feel that budget cuts are the total answer to our funding woes, immediate tax reform must be addressed and passed if we are to continue as a productive state.

Sincerely,

Lynne Grosfield 546 Toole Court

Helena, MT. 59601

Symne Grafield

12 TO

### WITNESS STATEMENT

	-	
NAME SLAUME T	rames	BILL NO.
ADDRESS 1409 Cle	reland Du. 6. Fy Mt	59401 DATE 6/12/86
WHOM DO YOU REPRESE	ENT? Mentana School for	Deat + Blid
SUPPORT	OPPOSE	AMEND
PLEASE LEAVE PREPAI	RED STATEMENT WITH SECRETAR	RY.
Comments:		
MA. CHAIRPEN	rson, nombers of the Inund Thomas and I	committee, my
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TOM TRUMBULL Business Manager GARY ROSE Administrative Asst.

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5**

PHONE 755-5015 - 233 1ST AVE. EAST - KALISPELL, MONTANA 59901

June 10, 1986

FLATHEAD HIGH SCHOOL Principal, William Vogt 755-7130

KALISPELL JUNIOR HIGH Principal, Cathryn McDevitt 755-6350

LINDERMAN SCHOOL Principal, Joseph Super 755-9489

EDGERTON SCHOOL Principal Rick Davis 257-6180

PETERSON SCHOOL Principal Rick Davis 252,7133

ELROD SCHOOL Principal, Russell Winters 257-3054

257-3054

HEDGES SCHOOL

Principal, Karia Jones
755-4042

RUSSELL SCHOOL Principal, Leanna Isaacson 257 3135 Representative Gene Donaldson 3890 Helberg Drive Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Representative Donaldson,

I am writing at this time at the request of the staff from the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind in Great Falls. Please consider this letter as my testimony for any Hearings relative to funding implications for the School in Great Falls.

School District #5 in Kalispell has placed severe hearing impaired and deaf children in Great Falls. Our staff and parents have worked closely with the staff and administration at Great Falls and feel that our students have been appropriately served. Our kids have benefitted educationally as well as personally as a result of their experience at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind.

This very special population of children require quality care because of the unique needs associated with a hearing impairment. We are of the opinion that this specialized training will reveal itself many times over as these children become productive, honest, and capable adults.

We sincerely hope that the current level of services will continue to be offered to this special group of Montana children at the School in Great Falls. It is our hope that you will help to support this helpful institution, allocating adequate funding and authority to allow this program to continue and to grow.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Patrick C. Lee, Director Special Services



### THE MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

JUNE 12, 1986. 1:30 pm

33 SOUTH LAST CHANCE GULCH HELENA, MONTANA 59620-2602 (406) 444-6570

COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

TO:

Representative, Gene Donaldson

FROM:

Jack Noble

Deputy Commissioner for

Management and Fiscal Affairs

DATE:

June 11, 1986

SUBJECT:

Summary Data Relative to Budget Reductions

Attached are summaries of the possible budget reductions for the next fiscal year. We have attempted to summarize the data and provide impacts on each campus in a uniform format. The six campus totals are presented in Table I. If you need additional information, please let me know.

# TABLE I Montana University System Summary of Budget Reductions - FY 87

Campus	Revenue Shortfall	5% General Fund Reduction	Pay <u>Plan</u>	TOTAL	Estimated Employee Reductions
UM MSU EMC TECH NMC WMC	\$ 150,000 875,000 125,000 268,864 40,000 40,000	\$1,115,934 1,382,177 440,700 269,440 267,000 138,000	\$ 898,000 1,190,000 342,000 214,000 190,000 107,000	\$2,163,934 3,447,177 907,700 752,304 497,000 285,000	56.9 129.2 30.0 23.0 14.5 9.2
TOTAL	\$1,498,864	\$3,613,251	\$2,941,000	\$8,053,115	262.8

Attachments

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### UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

### Budget Reduction - FY 87

I.	Revenue Shortfall:		<u>\$ 150,000</u>
		FTE	
	Faculty	3.4	\$ 100,000
	Administrative and Classified	2.3	50,000
-	TOTAL	5.7	<u>\$ 150,000</u>

These reductions would reduce class offerings by 40 and require workload increases for staff as vacancies are not filled.

II.	5% General Fund Reduction:	•	\$1,115,934
	-	FTE	
	Faculty	12.0	\$ 423,000
•	GTAS	10.5	166,000
	Administrative and Classified	11.0	311,000
	Operations		215,934
	TOTAL	<u>33.5</u>	\$1,115,934

Approximately 140 classes scheduled for next year would be eliminated. Many students would be unable to complete their academic program in a timely manner. Graduate teaching positions would be severely reduced, denying important employment opportunities for graduate students and reducing important support for undergraduate teaching. The opportunity for students to participate in 3 intercollegiate sports would be eliminated. Security, health and safety, and maintenance services would be significantly reduced. Financial and other administrative support functions would be scaled back, reducing internal controls and causing processing delays.

III.	Pay Plan:	FTE	<u>\$ 898,000</u>
•	Faculty GTAs	9.3	\$ 320,000 35,000
	Administrative and Classified Operations	6.2	176,000 137,000
	Books and Equipment Fee Waivers		200,000 30,000
	TOTAL	<u>17.7</u>	\$ 898,000

An additional 100 classes would be closed, resulting in the potential for defacto closure of several academic programs where no faculty are available to teach required classes. The accreditation status of various programs would be threatened. Services to students in areas such as financial aid would be reduced resulting in significant delays and disruptions. Funding for all instructional and support equipment would be eliminated and library book acquisitions would be reduced by one-half. Maintenance activities would be further reduced causing an even greater backlog of deferred maintenance and accelerated deterioration of campus facilities.

IV.	TOTAL:		\$2,163,934
	•	FTE	
	Faculty GTAs	24.7 12.7	\$ 843,000 201,000
	Administrative and Classified	19.5	537,000
	Operations Books and Equipment		352,934 200,000
	Fee Waivers	-	30,000
	TOTAL	<u>56.9</u>	\$2,163,934

The \$2,163,934 represents the equivalent of a 9.2% reduction of our general fund appropriation for 1987.

#### MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

### Budget Reduction - FY 87

I.	Revenue Shortfall:		\$ 875,000
II.	5% General Fund Reduction:	•	\$1,382,177
		FTE	\$2,257,177
	Personal Services: Faculty	(38.33)	÷
	Administrative/Professional Classified	(23.27) (33.13)	
	Core Curriculum Hourly	11.13 (22.27)	
	Total Operations (Deferred Maintenance)	(105.86)	\$1,657,177 400,000
•	Capital		200,000
	TOTAL		<u>\$2,257,177</u>

The majority of the reductions come from not filling vacant faculty positions as well as terminating classified and administrative personnel where no vacancies exist.

We believe that despite a reduction of 38.33 faculty FTE, we can meet essential class commitments. It is likely, however, that at a minimum up to 30 sections will be cancelled due to reductions in faculty lines. This will affect approximately 300 students. We also anticipate that reductions of this magnitude will result in increased teaching loads, larger classes, the elimination of specialized classes at the upper division level, and a shortage of student advisors. We will maintain our commitments to implement the Core Curriculum and to Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs). These GTAs will help fill the void left by faculty vacancies.

Classified reductions of 10 percent will result in one secretary offices in virtually all academic departments. Currently there is approximately 1 secretary for every 6 faculty positions. This shortage of clerical support is compounded by a 23 percent reduction in hourly labor. These employees are used to assist in offices during peak times such as quarterly registration or processing of financial aid forms.

The loss of deferred maintenance (\$400,000) will have several serious impacts this summer. The roofs on Ryon Lab, the Huffman Building, and AJM Johnson Hall are scheduled for major repair. In the case of Ryon, a leak into the power laboratory poses a hazzard to students and faculty who use this

facility. If deferred maintenance funds are not available, these projects will, no doubt, be included in our Long Range Building request for full replacement at an increased cost.

The reduction in capital (\$200,000) affects our ability to meet replacement schedules for undergraduate laboratory equipment, office machines, and computers. This level of funding would allow us to allocate limited capital funds to the library for book and journal purchases.

III.	Pay Plan:	<b>ים חי</b> ים	\$1,190,000
	Personal Services:    Faculty    Administrative/Professional    Classified    GTAs         Total Operations Capital	FTE (6.00) (3.00) (7.74) (6.58) (23.32)	\$ 648,000 117,000 425,000
	TOTAL		\$1,190,000

Absorbing the \$1.2 million represented by the pay plan means a loss of six faculty positions at Montana State University in addition to the 38 vacancies noted previously. The loss of these positions which are currently staffed by adjunct faculty will result in the cancellation of 50 to 60 sections of lower division mathematics, English, speech, and accounting courses that will affect approximately 340 students. This will be compounded by a 10 percent reduction to Graduate Teaching Assistants which will force the cancellation of an additional 40 sections, mostly in the sciences, affecting 320 students.

The loss of these instructional personnel will mean wait listing for 660 students through several quarters as well as extra time and expense to meet graduation requirements. We would expect many of these people to transfer to another institution, possibly out of state. The longer term impact will be to waive course requirements for which there are long wait lists, thus diminishing the quality of the education we offer.

Additional classified reductions of 7.74 FTE will result in terminations of secretaries, lab technicians and library personnel. Since most academic offices are already operating with one secretary, subsequent clerical cuts will likely come from student service areas such as career placement, financial aid, and registration.

The absorbtion of the pay plan will require major reductions in the library. The \$425,000 cut in library capital will reduce the library budget by 50 percent returning it to 1979 levels. We estimate that the acquisitions budget will be reduced by 15,000 books and 2,500 journals on July 1, 1986. The graduate program will be especially damaged by the loss of current research publications available through the library. Undergraduate students would also suffer a loss of research materials and the ability to study beyond basic textbooks. The acquisitions loss will be extremely difficult to rebuild and very costly.

The library's current practice of lending about 10,000 books and periodicals to smaller libraries in Montana would cease. Additionally several grants now pending for upgrading the library require there be evidence of maintaining the current collection. We could not meet that requirement under this reduction.

The operations cuts of \$117,000 represent the entire savings anticipated as a result of conversion to a lower cost energy system (wood pellets or natural gas industrial market retention rate). The savings were slated to be used, subject to legislative approval, for maintenance and repair on campus.

IV.	TOTAL	\$3,447,177
	Personal Services - 129.18 FTE Reduction Operations Capital	\$2,305,177 517,000 625,000
	TOTAL	\$3,447,177

The \$3,447,177 represents the equivalent of a 12.0% reduction of our general fund appropriation for 1987.

### EASTERN MONTANA COLLEGE

### Budget Reduction - FY 87

I.	Reve	enue Shortfall:	<u>\$125,000</u>
	A. B.	Reduce Equipment, Supplies, Services Reduce 1 Staff Position	\$109,900 15,100
		TOTAL `	<u>\$125,000</u>

This will provide fewer supplies and equipment for instruction.

II.	5% General Revenue Reduction:		<u>\$440,700</u>
	А.	Reduce 14 Staff and Administrative Positions Reduce 8 Faculty Positions	\$224,200 216,500
•		TOTAL	\$440,700

Eight faculty positions reduced will mean approximately 30 fewer classes per quarter or 90 per academic year. Students will have a more difficult time building a schedule and may be required to stay in school longer in order to earn the appropriate credits to graduate. Reduction of staff and administrative positions will mean less support for faculty in class preparation of materials. Supplemental instructional materials will be diminished.

III.	Pay	Plan:	<u>\$342,000</u>
-	А. В. С.	<pre>3 Faculty Positions 4 Staff/Administrative Positions Travel, Equipment, Supplies,</pre>	\$ 74,000 64,000
	C.	Deferred Maintenance	204,000
		ጥበጥል ነ.	\$342,000

Three faculty positions reduced will mean approximately 12 fewer classes offered per quarter or 36 per academic year.

Reduction of equipment, supplies and travel will mean reduction in library purchases which will result in diminished support of instruction. The other reductions will impact classroom instruction by allowing fewer equipment purchases and less support materials.

## Eastern Montama College Page 2

IV.	TOT	<u>\$907,700</u>	
	А. В. С.	19 Staff/Administrative Positions 11 Faculty Positions Travel, Equipment, Supplies	\$303,300 290,500 313,900
		TOTAL	\$907,700

Total reduction in class sections will be approximately 126 per academic year. With essentially the same enrollment this will force students to stay in school longer in order to complete their required curriculum.

The \$907,700 represents the equivalent of a 9.9% reduction of our general fund appropriation for 1987.

## MONTANA TECH

## Budget Reduction - FY 87

I. Revenue Shortfalls:

\$268,864

Student Fee Collection Reduction
Decrease in Indirect Cost Collection

\$208,864

TOTAL

\$268,864

# II. 5% General Fund Reduction:

\$269,440

The total decrease in income at Montana Tech will be almost exactly twice the 5% general fund reduction, so the impacts listed below are due half to the general fund reduction and half to revenue shortfall.

- Faculty 8.5 FTE
- Classified and Support 5.5 FTE
- Administrative Positions Abolished:

Dean of Engineering
Dean of Arts and Sciences
Director of Auxiliary Services
Director of Communications

- Critical Position Vacancies would not be filled including:
  - -- Dean, Research and Graduate Studies
  - -- Director of Placement and Cooperative Education
  - -- Director of Small Business Assistance
  - Engineering Faculty (hydrology/engineering science, etc.)
  - -- Custodial/maintenance on new engineering building, HPER, etc. (75,000+ sq. ft.)
- Capital budget of \$274,000 needed for essential equipment and maintenance would be eliminated except for library acquisitions; physical plant up-keep would be effectively reduced by 15%.
- Research money that initiates exploration of new ideas for outside funding would be reduced by 60%; potential multiplier is 2X to 5X.
- Computer operations would be curtailed by about 20%.

Impact on Students: Course offerings have been reduced to the minimum necessary to serve students in existing instructional programs and to maintain accreditation of these programs. Low enrollment courses and many elective courses have been eliminated, and multiple sections and courses offered both semesters have been substantially reduced. Student flexibility and choice have been substantially reduced, and class sizes and teaching loads are larger than they should be for quality instruction.

# III. Pay Plan:

\$214,000

Cost of funding FY 87 pay plan at Tech is \$214,000. This cannot be absorbed without threatening the fundamental nature of the College. The majority of the engineering programs are now staffed at the minimum level necessary to retain accreditation. Further budget reductions would demand fundamental changes away from Tech's traditional and unique mission supporting Montana minerals, mining and energy development. This would be a major policy decision for the State, and should not occur as the inadvertent consequence of budget reductions.

IV.	TOTAL:		<u>\$752,304</u>
	A. B. C. D.	General Fund Fee Revenue Reduction Indirect Cost Reduction Pay Plan	\$269,440 \$208,864 \$ 60,000 \$214,000
-		TOTAL	<u>\$752,304</u>

The \$752,304 represents the equivalent of a 13.4% reduction of our general fund appropriation for 1987.

## NORTHERN MONTANA COLLEGE

# Budget Reduction - FY 87

### I. Revenue Shortfall:

c

\$ 40,000

Based on estimated stable enrollment for FY 87. This represents approximately 44 FTE below appropriated level for H.B. 500.

A. Capital expenditures will be withheld pending actual enrollment data.

\$ 40,000

TOTAL

\$ 40,000

Loss of capital will provide fewer instructional teaching aids (Diagnostic Equipment, Tools) in the vocational technical programs.

# II. 5% General Fund Reduction:

TOTAL

<u>\$267,000</u>

A. B.	Reducing 4.5 Faculty Positions Reducing 5 Staff and Administrative	\$ 92,000
	Positions	100,000
c.	Reduce Faculty and Staff Development	20,000
D.	Reduce Utilities	20,000
E.	Eliminate Track/Field Program	10,000
F.	Reduce Library Acquisition Expend.	25,000
		-

\$267,000

Reducing faculty will mean a 7% increase in class size across the College, creating problems in laboratories, technology shops and studios where facility size and equipment limitations are involved.

Fewer staff will mean reduced services in the areas- of financial aid, business office and public relations.

Faculty and staff need to have regular updating to keep up-to-date in their respective fields. Quality is obviously impared if the lack of development funds are permanently discontinued.

Reducing utilities may result in minor physical discomforts of students, faculty and staff.

Elimination of track and field may reduce the opportunity of approximately 40-50 students to participate in collegiate level sports.

A sustained reduction of library acquisitions may jeopardize regional accreditation. In the core disciplines our library collections are minimal.

III.	Pay Plan:		<u>\$190,000</u>
	A. B. C. D.	2 Faculty Positions 3 Administrative/Staff Positions Equipment Deferred Maintenance Operations (Supplies, Maintenance)	\$ 50,000 60,000 40,000 20,000 20,000
		TOTAL	\$190,000

Loss of additional faculty increases class sizes by an additional 3%. This brings the cumulative effect of a 10% increase of class size.

Additional reduction of administrative/staff positions will require remaining staff to assume new duties to provide services for steady state enrollment.

Further equipment reductions will forego the acquisition of state of the art equipment (computerized technology).

Deferred maintenance means preventive maintenance will be limited and only most necessary repairs will be made. Efforts will be made to insure health and safety for college community.

Reducing operations will result in fewer handouts for students, teaching aids, less correspondence, less contact with students, peer colleges, etc. Only essential travel will be allowed.

IV.	TOT	<u>AL</u> :	<u>\$497,000</u>
•	A. B. C. D.	<pre>6.5 Faculty Positions 8 Administrative/Staff Positions Capital Purchases All Others</pre>	\$142,000 160,000 105,000 90,000
		TOTAL	<u>\$497,000</u>

The \$497,000 represents the equivalent of a 9.0% reduction of our general fund appropriation for 1987.

# WESTERN MONTANA COLLEGE

# Budget Reduction - FY 87

\$ 40,000

Revenue Shortfall:

	Personnel (Positions Include Fringe Benefits):	
	<pre>1 FTE Administrative/Instruction -    AV Librarian Administrative Supplies and Equipment</pre>	\$ 28,000 12,000
	TCTAL	\$ 40,000
	Reduces audio-visual services, equipment and suppliuse part-time for some audio-visual classes. Reduce access to the professional AV and Media.	es. Will s student
II.	5% General Fund Reduction:	<u>\$138,000</u>
	Personnel:	
	2.0 FTE - Classified/Clerical 1.0 FTE - Athletic Director 1.0 FTE - Instruction-Education .25 FTE - Instruction-Education Div. Chair. Equipment and Supplies, Instruction and	\$ 24,000 30,000 40,000 30,000 8,000
	Administration	6,000
	TOTAL	\$138,000
<b>~</b> •.	Impact: Prevents institution from implementing additions to the facutly provided for in the formula the last legislature. Erodes already limited resource port instruction through needed supplies and equipment	funding by es to sup-
III.	Pay Plan:	\$107,000
	Personnel:	
	1.0 FTE - Instruction - Business 1.0 FTE - Instruction - History 1.0 FTE - Classified - Physical Plant .5 FTE - Classified - Learning Center Operations and Equipment:	\$ 25,000 25,000 20,000 10,000
	Supplies Equipment - Library Books Administrative Travel	5,000 15,000 7,000
	TOTAL	\$107,000

# Western Montana College Page 2

Impact: Place in jeopardy accreditation in Teacher Education program in business and history. Teacher Education is at the core of Western's role and scope. Cancels ten classes in history and business. Reduces student access to and assistance in microcomputer learning center. Loss of travel reduces assistance to local school districts and coordination with other university units.

IV.	TOTAL:	\$285,000
	Personnel:	
	2.50 FTE Administrative 3.25 FTE Instruction 3.50 FTE Classified	\$ 92,000 88,000 60,000
	Operations and Equipment:	45,000
	TOTAL	\$285,000

Overall Impact: Great setback to progress made through administrative reorganization toward instructional program enhancement.

The \$285,000 represents the equivalent of a 10.0% reduction of our general fund appropriation for 1987.

Tune 12, 1986
Ray Shacklefor

# OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

# ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

1987

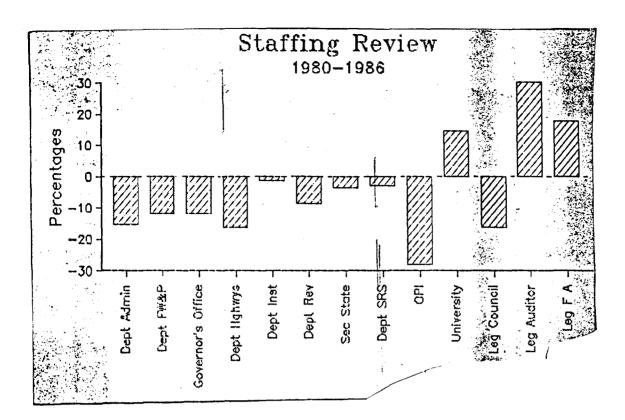
# STAFFING ISSUE

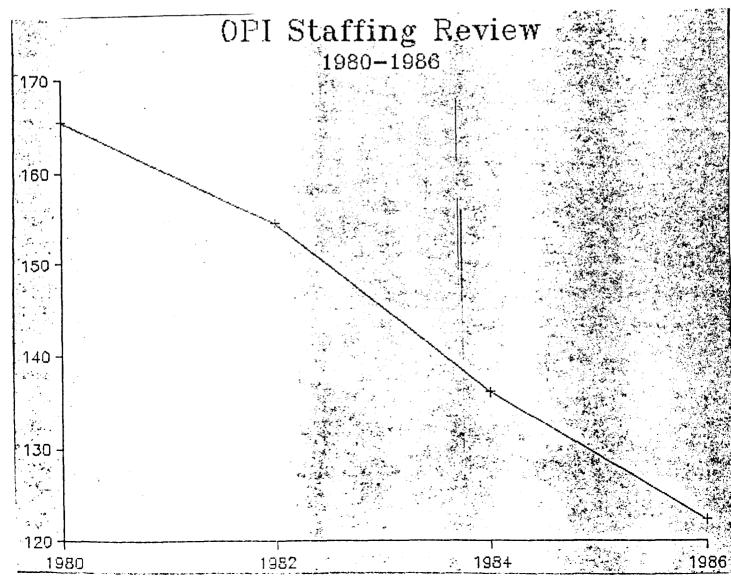
The Superintendent has been reducing staff since the beginning of his term. The personnel reductions have occurred as a result of Federal program changes, office philosophy directions and for increased productivity not legislative mandates. The level of staff is now at a minimum to provide the necessary statutory obligations of this office.

There are <u>vacant positions</u> as in all state government, in order to accommodate vacancy savings, staff resignations, federal matching positions, and to provide for administrative flexibility.

The General Fund provides for approximately 50% of the OPI personnel.

Minimum staff FTE and operating budget require administrative flexibility.





Proposed elimination of \$25,000 appropriated for film purchases for the AV Library has the following ramifications:

I. AV Library's Licensing Contract with Encyclopedia Britannica (EBE)

OPI (through AV Library) has entered into a 5 yr. contract with EBE for the purchase of 170 16mm film titles. Along with these films, we were given a master video of the film free and licensing rights to duplicate these videos to school districts. We have paid 3 of the 5 years at approx. \$11,638 annually.

If we have to default on our contract, the following will

happpen:

We will have to return a large portion of the films and their video masters, and we will have to relinquish licensing rights. The school districts which have licensed with us will have to erase their copies of the videos we return. They will lose their investment of the licensing fee and \$25.00 per video. Depending on the specific titles we return, this could be an enormouse loss for some school districts which have invested as much as \$7000 or more into the project.

Additionally, we will lose an added source of revenue. To date we have netted approx. \$10,000 from our licensing agreement.

Finally, to undo these contracts, erase tapes, return films is an enormously complex task for the AV Library and for every participating school district.

- II. The LFA recommended reevaluating the service at the AV Library. This has already been done through the Library Task Force Report. We are in the process of carrying out their recommendations to revitalize the AV Library. Loss of funding would be particularly damaging because:
- A. Collection is being weeded. Many films are out of date & we would be unable to replace to keep the collection current.

B. We would have no funds to repair the films we already

have, and high useage requires maintenance.

- C. 85-86 School Year we lost approx. \$4000 business (600 bookings) because of not having enough copies of high demand films to meet the needs.
- III. By seriously jeopardizing the on-going activities of the film library, we are penalizing schools beyond the proposed 4% Foundation Program cut:
- A. Approx. 1/2 our school districts (approx. 275) use the resources from the Film Library. By not being able to keep our collection current, a valuable resource is being taken away from the districts.
- B. By defaulting on our EBE Contract, districts will suffer a direct financial loss of their investment in the project.
- IV. Figures in the LFA report regarding financial condition are inaccurate. The AV Library will break even this year.
- V. If films from the Fire Services Training School are added to OPI, as suggested by LFA, we need that money for repair and maintenance of those films, too.

# ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET REDUCTION

The Superintendent is prepared to accept a 2% reduction in the operational budget. This degree of reduction assumes no additional budget limitations or demands. A reorganization and decrease in service will result, however, in view of these economic times it is a necessity. The ability to manage this reorganization without program interference is essential.

June 12, 1986
Ray Shackle ford
O.P. I

-OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION-Distribution To Public Schools

1987

(00)

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION ISSUE

#### Effects of further reductions:

- Increased litigation if schools do not provide appropriate special education and related services to handicapped students--schools are not relieved from provision of programs when funds are cut or eliminated.
- 2. Possible loss of non-mandatory programs such as post-secondary and preschool.
- 3. Impact on special education cooperatives who if they lose funding they count on having no taxing authority to pick it up.
- 4. Maintenance of fiscal effort necessary to get federal special education funding, if maintenance is not shown, the district gets no federal special education funds; thus, this federal funding is approximately 4 million per year.
- 5. Fiscal impact on all districts, specifically eight (8) schools who lost their first attempt to pass a maintenance levy this spring include

Butte Elementary	\$49,799
Butte High School	32,039
Cut Bank Elementary	6,328
Cut Bank High School	981
Belgrade Elementary	8,665
Belgrade High School	3,856
Bigfork Elementary	2,455
Bigfork High School	1,014

The December 1, 1985 Child Count shows a 3.4% decrease in total children served on that date. It should be emphasized that the severity of the children is substantially increasing, particularly, at preschool and early schoolage levels. We think this is due to medical interventions at birth, children who formerly died now are living but many have severe handicaps. There were several speech pathology positions open on that day which have since been filled. This showed a reduction of approximately 150 students who were still there but not counted because they weren't receiving services at that time. With the addition of the NC-noncategorical category for preschool children, many children earlier counted as speech impaired are now counted as NC.

The following selected budgets demonstrate additional amounts districts support special education costs.

· i

	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
Great Falls Elem approved spent 2% reduction	\$1,328,530 1,609,078	\$1,358,585 1,580,243	\$1,347,007  26,940
Great Falls H.S. approved spent 2% reduction	859,996 1,011,040	874,726 1,120,817	807,283  16,146
Browning Elem approved spent 2% reduction	281,967 301,869	301,869 310,034	299,180  5,984
Browning H.S. approved spent 2% reduction	87,922 87,973	121,594 108,504	118,503  2,370
Livingston Elem approved spent 2% reduction	263,798 298,262	298,312 340,914	327,368  6,547
Livingston H.S. approved spent 2% reduction	102,112 101,149	101,529 103,788	105,687  2,114
Butte Elem approved spent 2% reduction	1,019,900 1,039,992	1,040,298 1,166,397	986,127  19,723
Butte H.S. approved spent 2% reduction	647,741 676,355	682,865 698,805	634,430  12,689
Billings Elem approved spent 2% reduction	1,904,817 2,690,152	1,959,511 3,011,305	2,194,652  43,893
Billings H.S. approved spent 2% reduction	1,034,806 1,332,243	1,111,248 1,449,687	1,200,518  24,010

#### SECONDARY VO-ED GRANTS

- 1. Secondary vocational education excess funding impacted 120 high schools involving 508 programs which enrolled 24,861 (ANB) in FY 1985.
- 2. Secondary excess costs distributions to 120 high schools averaged 4166.67 with a range of 224.71 to 53,555.87 in FY 1985.
- 3. Secondary vocational education excess cost categories, determined by MCA 20-7-306, are received by high school districts and are expended only for approved secondary vocational education and industrial arts programs in instructional areas.
- 4. Approved expenditure categories for excess costs are:
  - 1. Extended contract salary.
  - 2. Student organization advisor stipend.
  - 3. Repair, maintenance and leasing.
  - 4. Instructional travel expenses.
  - 5. Instructional supplies.
  - 6. Minor equipment.
  - 7. Major equipment.
- 5. Excess cost funding can and does leverage matching state funds for available federal funds.
- 6. Secondary excess costs are clearly indentifiable as state level funding in the maintenance of effort requirement in federal law pertaining to Montana's receipt of over \$5 million in vocational education funds.
- 7. Excess cost funding has already been reduced by 1/3 from the 1985 biennium to the 1987 biennium.

June 10, off Don Waidson

#### PRESENTATION FOR JUNE 12 - 2:00 P. M.

#### I. Overview - Don Waldron

#### A. Introduce item

- 1. The needs existed in April, 1985, and still do. The Legislature should focus on the reason (s) for revenue shortfalls and correct the source.
- 2. The Foundation Program does not fund those programs/services which will likely be cut the District provides these funds.
- 3. The effort has been made by districts in the approval of their levies and people expect programs/services to remain intact. The State must uphold their end of the bargain.
- 4. According to the results of the March, 1986 Montana Foll, 72% of those surveyed said that cuts should not be made in support for elementary and secondary education. (Also higher education.) Moreover, 60% of the respondents said the State should increase revenues in the form of new taxes or other sources.
- 5. Any cuts at the State level will ultimately be passed on to local taxpayers. Not only are they passed on but they are passed on an inequitable basis because some districts do not even have to depend on State monies to fund the Foundation program.
- B. Explain presentation Introduce speakers
- II. Schools may face these possible losses of revenue other than the Foundation Program.
  - A. Transportation

- 1. Transportation is required for all students who live more than three (3) miles from school. Form of providing transportation can vary but requirement must be maintained.
- Transportation routes and individual contracts are already set.

#### B. Special Education

5% - \$2,016,1192% ---576,035

\$2,592,154

- Special education is required by state and federal law.
- Special education budgets are already committed.

## Vocational technical centers

7% - \$776,879

#### VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL CENTER CUTS

#### PAY PLAN

Center	1986	1987	5% Cut
Billings	20,000	67,000	66,220
Butte	18,000	57,000	50,061
Great Falls	19,000	59,000	54,587
Helena	25,000	81,000	81,588
Missoula	25,000	78,000	65,423

- Committments have been made to staff and students.
- Use Missoula as evidence.  $\mathbb{R}_{\bullet}$

#### D. Impact Aid Funds

\$5,746,999 Potential loss through proposed change in federal regulation.

Proposed reduction \$1,389,705

- Payment in lieu of taxes. Important because districts have little or no tax base.
- Use example of Lame Deer and Hardin 2 mill to 19 mill, 74 non-taxable

- E. Motor vehicle fees

  60% share of \$8-9 million = \$4.8-5.4 million
- F. Protested taxes 66% share of \$32,837,254 = \$21,672,588
- G. Comprehensive Insurance Premiums
  Estimated premium increase of \$6,000,000
  - 1. Required by law
- III. Funding cuts at this time are impossible to absorb.
  - A. Contracts are already issued
    - 1. Most districts have issued contracts to teachers
      - a. Negotiations as required by law have been completed in most cases
    - 2. By state law tenured teachers are contracted if not notified of non-renewal by April 1.
    - 3. Non-tenured teachers are contracted if not notified of non-renewal by April 15.
    - 4. Financial considerations cannot be a reason to terminate a teacher under contract.
  - 3. Schools have committed themselves to taxpayers by passage of their mill levies in April.
    - Any form of local revenue increase would be placed on the property tax.
  - C. Preliminary budgets must be set by the fourth Monday of June and final budgets must be set by the fourth Monday of July.
    - 1. Contracts and fixed costs have been already set.
    - 2. No time remains to plan further options.
- IV. Closing Chris Mattocks speaks to the quality of our present system.

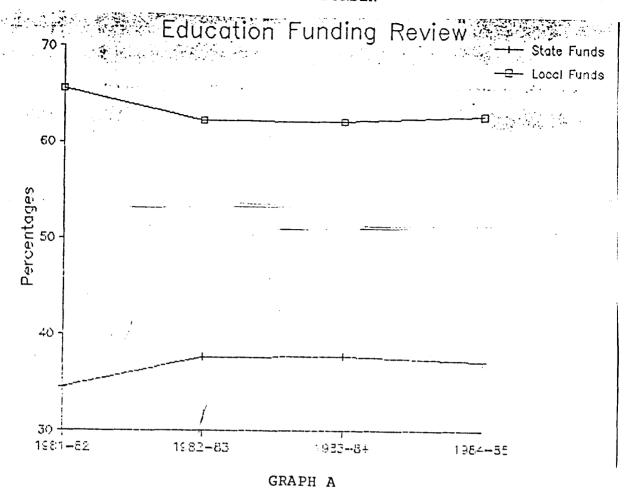
# WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME Don Waldron-(MASA Group)	BILL NO.
ADDRESS Helena	DATE 6-15-86
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? MASA	
SUPPORT OPPOSE A	MEND
PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.	
Comments:	
We will hand copies of our rund in after we talk - Thouk you for	en he
This opportunity - Don Walder	~
MICKEN	
SYRACY	
Aloumquist	

Tane 12, 1956.
Ray Shackleford

# OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM



Withholding the 4 percent increase approved by the 1985 Legislature will pass the additional cost to the local taxpayer.

"Across the board" cuts do not inpact the schools fairly.

Taxable Valuation Differences

Elementary

\$350/student ----- \$19,154,864/student \$3,558/student ----- \$754,436/student

High School

\$1,553/student ----- \$1,016,028 \$10,383/student ---- \$777,472

General Fund Mill Differences

Elementary

-0- ----- 110.60

High School

-0- ---- 80.81

[ hool I	Districts in 1985-86 that request of the General Fund.  DILLON ELEM BEAVERHEAD CO HS WYOLA ELEM TURNER ELEM TURNER H S RED LODGE ELEM RED LODGE H S BRIDGER ELEM BRIDGER H S JOLIET ELEM JOLIET ELEM ROBERTS ELEM ROBERTS H S FROMBERG ELEM FROMBERG ELEM EKALAKA ELEM GREAT FALLS EL GREAT FALLS H S CENTERVILLE H S BELT ELEM BELT H S FT SHAW-SIMMS ELEM	ired more	than
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€ 3003	BEAVERHEAD CO HS	38.25	
()017	WYOLA ELEM	37.81	
129	TURNER ELEM	44.69	
₩ -030	TURNER H S	47.09	
(1039	RED LODGE ELEM	61.20	
0 040	RED LODGE H S	36.60	
00041	BRIDGER ELEM	33.40	
0 042	BRIDGER H S	45.30	
043	JOLIET ELEM	41.30	
00044	JOLIET H S	46.50	
00047	ROBERTS ELEM	38.30	- 70
048	ROBERTS H S	37.70	
0.50	FROMBERG FLEM	49 90	
00051	FROMBERG H S	50 40	
( 052	EDGAR FLEM	34 00	
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000/3	VAUGHN ELEM	43.54	
0 0/4	ULM ELEM	78.62	
Q076	SUN RIVER ELEM	48.05	
00077	FT BENTON ELEM	55.03	
0°078	FT BENTON H S	33.15	
ົ 183	HIGHWOOD ELEM	56.57	
0 84	FT BENTON ELEM FT BENTON H S HIGHWOOD ELEM HIGHWOOD H S GERALDINE ELEM GERALDINE H S MILES CITY ELEM	48.98	
00085	GERALDINE ELEM	39.05	
0 086	GERALDINE H S	32.76	
0-090	MILES CITY ELEM	90.73	
OOTOD	COSTER CO H 2	44.10	
	SCOBEY H S	38.83	
0_106	PEERLESS ELEM	46.48	
0 <b>0</b> 107		57.97	
	GLENDIVE ELEM	42.54	
0 111	DAWSON CO H S	53.34	
		67.32	
	ANACONDA ELEM	52.55	
0 120	ANACONDA H S	50.09	
0_126	LEWISTOWN ELEM	77.20	
00127	FERGUS H S	42.26	
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) [ ] 44	WINIFRED H S	39.26	
	KALISPELL ELEM	53.91	
0150	FLATHEAD H S	41.39	
52		36.53	
155	HELENA FLATS ET.	39.20	
63	WHITEFISH ELEM	36.54	
10164	WHITEFISH H C	39.36	
) 6 65	EVERGREEN ELEM	46.53	
70	LOGAN ELEM	45.32	
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217	PHILIPSBURG EL	39.44			
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219	HALL ELEM	34.31			
0220	DRUMMOND ELEM	35.70			
0225	HAVRE ELEM	46.44			
1229	K-G ELEM	36.65			
)230	K-G HIGH SCHOOL	44.13			
0232	BLUE SKY ELEM	55.35			
0233	BLUE SKY HIGH	48.24			
0234	CLANCY ELEM	80.43			
)235	WHITEHALL ELEM	50.07			
)238	BOULDER ELEM	36.79			
)241	MONTANA CITY ELEM	54.99			
)242	STANFORD ELEM	37.39			
)243	STANFORD H S	36.32			
)244	HOBSON ELEM	42.93			
)245	HOBSON H S	37.46			
247	GEYSER ELEM	33.97			
)263	HELENA ELEM	71.05			
)264	HELENA H S	50.01			
)265	KESSLER ELEM	31.61	,		
)267	E HELENA ELEM	37.25			
)273	AUGUSTA H S	32.37			
)2//	J-I HIGH SCHOOL	39.47			
)281	TROY H S	31.72			
282	LIBBY ELEM	50.98			
1283	LIBBY H S	37.82			
284	EUREKA ELEM	69.32			
285	LINCOLN CO H S	45.94			
291	REXFORD ELEM	32.21			•
295 296	TWIN BRIDGES ELEM TWIN BRIDGES H S	33.87			
299	ENNIS ELEM	31.65			
301	CIRCLE ELEM	35.47			
308	WHT SULPHUR SPG ELEM	48.19 53.62			
312	ALBERTON ELEM	99.17	•		
313	ALBERTON H S	52.54			
314	SUPERIOR ELEM	95.03			
315	SUPERIOR H S	57.16			
316	ST REGIS ELEM	61.47			
317	ST REGIS H S	37.12			
318	MISSOULA ELEM	63.17			
319	MISSOULA H S	42.25			
320	HELLGATE ELEM	30.15			
321	LOLO ELEM	49.39			
322	POTOMAC ELEM	42.22			
323	BONNER ELEM	53.10			
330	SEELEY LAKE ELEM	38.33			
339	LIVINGSTON ELEM	63.11		,	
340	PARK H S	43.91	,	4-	

0 359 0 360 0 0366 0 370 0 382 0 99 0 404 0 405 0 0408	MALTA ELEM MALTA H S CONRAD ELEM BRADY ELEM DEER LODGE ELEM VICTOR ELEM FLORENCE-CARLTON ELEM FLORENCE-CARLTON HS SAVAGE ELEM FROID ELEM FROID ELEM FROID H S FORSYTH ELEM ROSEBUD ELEM ROSEBUD ELEM ROSEBUD H S PLAINS ELEM PLAINS H S THOMPSON FALLS ELEM THOMPSON FALLS H S HERON ELEM DARADISE ELEM NOXON ELEM BUTTE ELEM DIVIDE ELEM BUTTE H S COLUMBUS ELEM REED POINT ELEM RAPELJE ELEM RAPELJE ELEM BIG TIMBER ELEM SWEET GRASS CO HS CHOTEAU ELEM FAIRFIELD H S DUTTON H S POWER ELEM SHELBY H S GLASGOW ELEM	32.91 33.54 36.37 37.51 33.54 76.10 47.60 63.90 51.70		
00428 0429 0432 00435 0436 0441	FROID ELEM FROID H S FORSYTH ELEM ROSEBUD ELEM ROSEBUD H S PLAINS ELEM	40.25 41.85 53.18 38.74 46.06 38.77		
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#### ADDITIONAL ISSUES

#### TIMING

School budget development occurs during December through February.

Mill levies must be set, negotiations finalized so that statutory time lines can be followed.

Imposing a budget reduction on school districts at this time leaves few or no options.

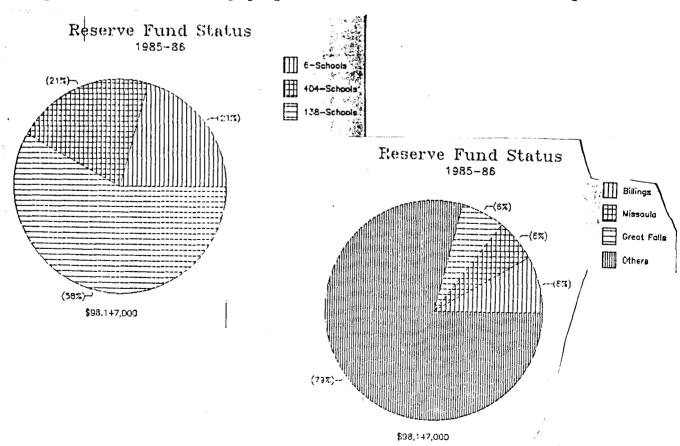
## GENERAL FUND RESERVE

It has been suggested that school districts could use their reserve funds to solve the state budget problems.

First, these funds are created by local property taxes for the general cash flow of the district. Each district must decide on the particular level to hold in reserve depending on local tax delinquencies, protests, and other factors determined by the trustees for the business operation of their school.

Some schools have insufficient reserves and have not been able to pass levies making this an impossible budget reduction option.

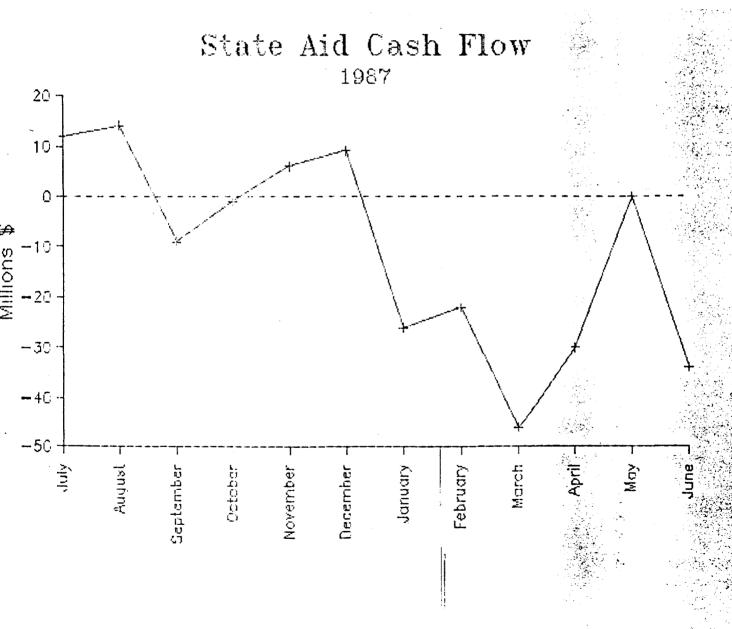
The Reserve Fund level was erroneously inflated by an earlier report. The following graphs illustrate a more accurate picture:



# GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE

The following graph illustrates a major problem in funding the School Foundation Program. Our own reserves are at a level that the final payment to schools for the 1986 year, June 28, is extremely close.

During the fiscal year 1987, a much larger problem is anticipated.



6 12 000

Sune 18,758 Stunon Dickman

Sharon Dickman 1st Vice President Montana Parent Teacher Association (Tlational NTA)

Our organization is the largest children's advocate organization in the world. present concern is over erosion of the Foundation Program which was and is designed to equalize the costs of education between the relatively rich and the relatively poor school districts in MT. We believe it has reached the point where it is neither comprehensive nor equal. There has been a shift of responsibility from the broad tax authority of state government down to the much more limited, and unequal, realm of local property owners. MPTA encourages state legislators to study tax structure in MT and work to provide better funding from the state level to the Foundation Program to ease financial burdening of local communities. States burdent problems. Tapping local reserve funds is not the answer Many districts have limited reserves and degend on voted levies for over 30% of their projected budget. Reserves are local monies and it is simply not right for the state to even think about balancing its budget by chipping away at these local monies. MPTA opposes utilizing reserves as a quick fix to assist with the financial crisis MT is currently experiencing. Districts that are passing levies have done so by making serious cuts to their programs. placing the 4% from the Foundation Program could range from .2 to 10 mills in different communities. Passing levies does not guarantee that property xx taxes will be paid to fulfill those levies. The timing of reducing the 4% in Foundation monies is poor--schools have made committments.

Some items can be postponed for a few years=--that is not true for schools. A year or two in a student's life is irreplaceable. Many have said that eduation must accept part of the responsibility for sharing the burden of reduced revenue. The word "education" is an impersonal word. Put that word into perspective and it is our child-ren--children who have faces and names. Think of the children you know, anywhere from 5 years old to a college student. These are who were are talking about. These students are our state and nation's future, a future we cannot afford to shortchange. Every student has the innate faith that their state is not going to cheat them out of the best education. Most of these children do not know they are being threatened with sactifice, but we ddults, we know.

Freezing public school funding at this time would seriously aggravate and already bad situation. Education has already taken its share --- and then some--- of "hits" of recent years. The 4% issue detracts from the fact that MT does not have a good base for support of schools. Perhaps it is time to look at other sources of revenue for the education of our shildren. One legislator recently said that it would not be "politically fair or politically palatable" to exempt education from the budget cuts. Nonsense! The education of children is not a political pawn. Children's lives are not a political item.

Perhaps it is time to look at other sources of revenue for the education of our children. LEXXMEXXEXECUTE We, all of us, are caretakers of our children. KME Let us, as a state, take proper care of our chilren's education. Do not touch the 4% from the Foundation Program. Thank you.

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,	F	RESERVES LE	SS THAN 159	Godney Suel	$\Omega \wedge A$
	<del>-</del>			- Suffin Pill's	Schools
Enroll	School	Reserve	Enroll C		Reserve
48	Lima High School 12	10.1	6	Davey Elementary 12	15.0
68	Pryor Elementary 2	1.2	75 06	Box Elder High School G	12.7
158	Lodge Grass High School 2		96	Blue Sky Elementary 90	14.4
57 247	Plenty Coups High School		53	Blue Sky High School K	14.6
347 175	Chinook Elementary 10	9.6	18	Basin Elementary 5	8.9
46	Chinook High School 10	12.2	231	Boulder Elementary 7	2.7
8	Zurich Elementary 17 Cow Island Trail 42	7.5 9.0	210	Jefferson High School 1	6.9
7	Bear Paw Elementary 67	9.8	136 99	Montana City Elem. 27	2.4
7	N. Harlem Colony 6	3.3	57	Hobson Elementary 25	9.2 2.2
27	Toston Elementary 15	0.0	951	Hobson High School 25 Polson Elementary 23	14.2
212	Broadwater Co. High School		467		
196	Bridger Elementary 2	14.6	407	Polson High School 23	9.3 14.3
99	Bridger High School 2	8.2	11	St. Ignatius Elem. 28 Valley View Elementary 35	7.3
203	Simms High School F	14.6	89	Charlo High School 7J	15.2
230	Big Sandy Elementary 11	10.5	4826	Helena Elementary 1	12.3
105	Big Sandy High School 2	10.1	2662	Helena High School 1	9.5
1403	Miles City Elementary 1	14.4	255	Kessler Elementary 2	12.7
2.00	Locate - Riverview 9	0.0	19	Trinity Elementary 4	10.4
599	Custer Co. High School 1	14.4	18	Auchard Creek Elem. 27	10.4
	Union Elementary 67	0.0	104	Lincoln Elementary 38	9.5
1085	Lewistown Elementary 1	9.4	57	Lincoln High School 38	10.3
485	Fergus High School 1	11.6	204	Troy High School 1	12.9
	Maiden Elem/High	3.6	57	Lincoln Co. High School	10.3
88	Deer Park Elementary 2	10.5	25	Rexford Elementary 2	13.3
118	Fair-Mont-Egan E3	4.7	73	Twin Bridges High School 7	
139	Swan River Elementary 4	0.0	571	Lolo Elementary 7	12.5
2814	Kalispell Elementary 5	13.6	<b>6</b> 0	Swan Valley Elementary 33	8.5
1500	Flathead High School 5	0.0	570	Park High School 1	11.2
58	Creston Elementary 9	12.6	37	Saco High School B	12.4
171	Cayuse Prairie Elem. 10	10.8	77	Saco Elementary 12A	13.5
184	Helena Flats Elementary 1		549	Conrad Elementary 10	14.9
94	Kila Elementary 20	0.7	265	Conrad High School 10	9.4
93	Batavia Elementary 26	9.7	23	Helmville Elementary 15	8.9
330	Bigfork High School 38	10.0	16	Gold Creek Elementary 33	13.3
1140	Whitefish Elementary 44	11.4	153	Lone Rock Elementary 13	9.9
515	Whitefish High School 44	0.0	170	Plains High School 1	6.9
788	Evergreen Elementary 50	9.0	441	Thompson Falls Elem. 2	12.8
41	Mountain Brook Elem. 62	12.4	195	Thompson Falls H. S. 2	11.5
175 352	West Valley Elementary 1	0.4	54	Heron Elementary 3	10.8
146	Manhattan Elementary 3	0.0	48	Paradise Elementary 8	6.9
1068	Manhattan High School 3	0.5 1.2	6	Camas Prairie Elementary 1:	
382	Bozeman High School 7 Three Forks Elem. 24-24	6.5	96 160	Hot Springs H. S. 14-J Medicine Lake Elementary 7	5.3
118	Three Forks H. S. J-24	9.1	60	Medicine Lake High School	
185	Monforton Elementary 27	8.5	4775	Butte Elementary 1	1.9
112	Gallatin Gateway Elem. 35		1435	Butte High School 1	1.3
80	Anderson Elementary 41	3.0	312	Columbus Elementary 6	4.2
1020	Belgrade Elementary 44	6.9	143	Columbus High School 6	4.8
160	W. Yellowstone Elem. 69	2.3	345	Choteau Elementary 1	10.2
74	W. Yellowstone H. S. 69	4.1	153	Choteau High School 1	11.6
	Seville Elementary 64	0.0	92	Dutton Elementary 28	15.2
67	Ryegate Elementary 6	14.3	44	Dutton High School 28	14.8
33	Ryegate H. S. 1	11.1	111	Harlowton High School 16	6.4
	- <del>-</del>		_	<b>y</b>	

Enroll		eserve
76	Judith Gap Elementary 21J	0.0
21	Judith Gap High School 21J	9.0
232	Canyon Creek Elementary 4	15.2
1182	Laurel Elementary 7-70	14.2
95	Broadview Elementary 21-J	7.3
33	Broadview High School 21-7	11.3
537	Huntley Project Elem 24	14.0
370	Shepherd Elementary 37	6.8
216	Shepherd High School 37	1.9
131	Independent Elementary 52	14.5
78	Yellowstone Boys & Girls 58	8.5

High School - 13,441 = 32.3% Elementary - 29,164 = 25.9%

# CURRENT FUNDING IMPACTS ALREADY IDENTIFIED FOR MONTANA'S ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

#### TRANSPORTATION

Elementary

High School

2% = 49.954

2X = 76.0025% = 190,004

5% = 124,886

174,840

266,006

TOTAL \$440.846

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

2% = 576.035

5% = 2.016,119

TOTAL \$2,592,154

## VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL CENTERS

2% = 107,000

5% = 317.879Pay Plan = 342.000

TOTAL **事766,879** 

874 FUNDS

\$5,746,989

MOTOR VEHICLE FEES

60% Share of \$8-9 Million

PROTESTED TAXES

66% Share of \$32,837,254 = \$21,672,588

COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE PREMIUM INCREASE

\$6,000,000

June 2,1986 Tie Muttocks

# PRESENTATION TO JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

June 12, 1986 - Helena, Montana

By: T. C. Mattocks - Superintendent of Schools - Cut Bank, MT

I am told that there are billboards in North Dakota that say "Montana is Closed for the Summer." The purpose of these billboards is a tourist promotion scheme by the provisionces of Alberta and Saskatchewan to get travelers who are headed for Expo '86 to turn north while in North Dakota and then take the road across Southern Canada as proceed toward British Columbia. In my opinion, if the Legislature goes along with Governor Schwinden's request to freeze the Foundation Program schedules at the 1985-86 level, they might as well put up some more billboards outside of our borders that state "Montana is Closed Due to Lack of Education."

Within the last three years several reports calling for the reform of public education have been published. Some of these works such as A NATION AT RISK by the President's Commission on Educational Excellence, and HIGH SCHOOl by Theodore Sizer basically state that there is going to be a critical need for quality teaching or the part of teachers, quality learning on behalf of students, and quality funding on behalf of those who provide the funds for education. The need for this quality is going to become even greater in the next two decades as our technological needs become even more acute in our society.

In this time of heightened interest in our educational system this is NOT the time to cut back on the financial gears that drive our educational engine. Due to that national wave of reform that was sparked a few years ago, state mandates were adopted that affected each school in Montana. Graduation standards were raised; a new sense of meaning was infused into the public schools at every level. We in the public schools had a sense of optimism, of euphoria, a sense of urgency that pervaded all of our actions. We felt like the forgotten stepchild who at long last had received some overducattention. Somebody was looking at us, and they were saying that we were OK

We were assured that if reform measures were adopted, money would be forthcoming to help pay for it. Now that most of the schools have upgraded their standards, charged up their curricula, and planned on higher levels of funding to support these programs, we are told to put on the brakes. We are told to slow down the machinery that we just recently were told to gear up. We are told to make due with less that we had before.

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We are even told to take money from our Reserve Funds, if any, to make up any loss in the Foundation Program. It's not too different from when Pharoh told Moses in the movie THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, in make bricks without straw. I have a lot of problem with that.

First of all, education is like any other business. If you build a better "mousetrap" people will notice. Several studies done recently involving the 50 states and their educational systems have shown good results for Montana Schools and their students. The National Education Association ranks the Montana Schools as Number 1 in the nation! Last Fall the Montana students who took the scholastic aptitude tests had scores that ranked them 3rd in the nation! Former Secretary of Education Terrell Bell considered a variety of factors and ranked the Montana Schools 6th in the nation! Phi Delta Kappa, the nation's premier education association, took Secretary Bell's figures and corrected some of his figures with new information, and this changed Montana's rating up to a tie for 2nd in the nation.

To those who say that the price of education in Montana is too high, I point to our RAMKING National, as compiled by those outside of our state. You ARE getting what you pay for—top quality education, when compared to the other 49 states of the union. If you want quality you have to pay for it, and in Montana educators are delivering with the results. To those who say that we can get by with less in education, I say fine, but don't hold us accountable if our comparative rankings slip when compared to other states who are increasing their educational funding at a time when Montana wants to economize on the backs of the Public Education System in this state.

Let's face it—we're exporters in Montana. We export our energy reserves; we export wheat and barley; and we export kids. To me, it would be a travesty to export our kids in this day and age with less of a chance to survive than they now have. A recent television news story from Missoula depicted three (3) students graduating from high school in Missoula, all of whom would have qualified for honor scholarships as provided by the Montana University System. All, however, chose to attend college out of state, with one of the main concerns being the State's lack of commitment financially and philosophy to the educational system of this state. To those who say that maybe

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we can afford to educate our kids a little less well in the future, I say that is the biggest danger that we have to guard against--being satisfied with mediocrity in education when it is readily apparent that those with the basic skills of knowledge will be the ones who succeed in the future.

We've talked about exporting; now, what do we import?? For the past several years the Legislature has been trying very hard to import business into the state to build its economic base. While I cannot categorically state that higher levels of funding for education will attract business to our state, I feel fairly safe in saying that increasingly lower levels of funding for education in the state will prevent businesses from even considering Montana as a possible site. What business would want to commit its employees to a lower level of education for their children than they can find in other states who have recommitted and rededicated their efforts to the cause of public education?

Another problem that is cropping, on the horizon that you should be aware of--you can't offer a quality education without quality teachers. As we see a gradual graying of our teacher workforce, coupled with early retirement options, how will the educational system be able to cope in the early to mid nineties when the current teachers have retired and there is no one in the pipeline to replace them. A major teacher shortage is already predicted for the nation during this time frame. To have the state officially condone mediocrity in education through lowered funding will practically guarantee that no college student will seriously consider teaching as a career.

The suggestion of Governor Schwinden and others that we use the reserve funds to make up any shortfall in the Foundation Program shows a basic lack of knowledge about school finance. At worst it displays a depression era psychology in the face of the demands of a space age society. At best it encourages a "rob Peter to pay Paul" thinking that is guaranteed to come back in the form of higher taxes for the property owners of this state. To me it is the ultimate form of tax shifting---from Helena to the back of the local homeowner.

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We in education fully understand that the state is at a financial crossroad. One road leads to a quick fix that is only temporary, and involves one time shots, and fund transfers. This kind of solution is kind of like a diaper change—it looks and feels good for a little while but it doesn't solve the long term problem. The other road involves making lasting changes in our taxation structure that you will be proud to tell your children and grandchildren about. The same children and grandchildren you expect us to educate at a quality level in the next 20 years.

To you as Legislators, I say we are ready to help. But don't cut the Foundation Program. Don't expect us to make bricks without straw. Those cuts in the Foundation Program directly affect your kids...my kids...our future.

At the conclusion of this or any other Legislative Session I would like nothing better than to see some billboards erected outside of our borders that say "Montana is Indeed Still Open, and Still Leading the Nation in the Way It Educates Kids."

Montana Education Association 1232 East Sixth Avenue • Helena • Montana 59601 • 406-442-4250

#### MEA TESTIMONY OF JUNE 12, 1986

#### BEFORE THE JOINT APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The MEA believes that the Governor is wrong when he proposes that the State renege on its commitment of a 4% increase in the foundation program to local school districts in 1986-87. Moreover, the Governor is wrong when asserting that the 4% reduction in the 1986-87 foundation schedules can be readily accommodated by almost all school districts from "reserve" accounts without raising local property taxes, severely curtailing necessary educational programs, or jeopardizing the operation of a number of schools because of a cash-flow crisis which is anticipated next spring.

The Governor's office states that statewide, local school district "total reserves" stand at \$123 million in FY 86. That figure, however, includes not only \$98 million in "reserve" amounts but also nearly \$25 million in FY 86 "cash reappropriated" dollars. In actual fact, the cash reappropriated dollars are dollars already spent. The \$123 million claimed by the Governor is really only \$98 million. Even that figure may be too high for 1986-87 as many districts have spent-down their reserves since last year.

Whatever the correct current figure, reserve and cash reappropriated constitute local tax dollars accumulated and spent to make up for the state's failure to provide adequate foundation schedule levels in years past. As indicated by the Governor's figures (page 2) the foundation program dollar increases from 1976 to 1986 amount to 100%. This increase roughly corresponds to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase since 1976. In contrast, actual voted levies have increased by over 300% since 1976.

Fiscal Year	Foundation Amount	Annual % Change	Voted Levy	Annual % Change
76	\$111,548,000	13.98	\$ 49,153,000	18.966
77	\$124,068,000	11.22	\$ 53,652,000	9.15
78	\$131,422,000	5.93	\$ 60,790,000	13.30
79	\$139,160,300	5.89	\$ 66,021,000	8.61
80	\$145,921,700	4.79	\$ 80,387,000	21.76
81	\$155,389,000	6.56	\$ 98,084,000	22.01
82	\$178,633,000	14.96	\$102,938,000	4.95
83	\$202,986,000	13.63	\$107,289,000	4.23
84	\$209,409,000	3.16	\$122,925,000	14.57
85	\$216,768,000	3.51	\$144,987,684	17.95
86	\$220,456,556	1.70	\$156,368,038	8.19

What we have seen over the last ten years are local districts picking up the slack caused by the state's failure to adequately fund the Foundation Program. Except for a handful of very small districts, no educational program offered anywhere in Montana is any longer fully funded by the foundation program. For at least a decade, local district levies and property taxes have increasingly carried the state's burden. One need only look at the voted levy mill rates in Great Falls or Butte, or Superior or Glendive, to see that local taxation has not only supplied the extra dollars needed to attempt to foster quality education, but that these same dollars have been used to create the reserves that the Governor now wants to deplete.

The Governor also asserts that only 16 districts have reserves of less than 5% of their FY 86 general fund budgets. The argument is then made that very few districts providing educational services to only a tiny fraction of the student population will be hard pressed to make up for the State's withdrawal of 4% in foundation funding. The Governor's argument is specious as

the 5% reserve level bears no practical relation to districts cash flow -- budgeting requirements.

A sizeable portion of districts' budgets for supplies, textbooks, and maintenance are incurred in the early months of each fiscal year. Moreover, initial school year salaries are paid in September. Districts, however, do not receive significant new revenue from the state's foundation program until late September and do not receive local tax revenue until two months later.

5% reserves are simply inadequate to cover the normal, reasonable, and unavoidable costs incurred by districts during the first three months of each fiscal year. A more realistic reserve level to cover frugally budgeted initial fiscal year cash flow costs must, at a minimum, be pegged at 15% of the general fund budget. Smaller districts which expect late payments of local tax revenue, or districts experiencing tax protests which can hold up tax receipts for months or years (talk with administrators from Jefferson County or Malta, or a dozen other places on this point) must have reserves considerably higher than the 15% level.

If one uses the more realistic 15% reserve level as the criterion, 113 (rather than 16) districts do not currently have adequate reserves to meet typicalfall '86 cash-flow expectations. Specifically, as reported in budgets submitted last fall, 70 of 382 operating elementary districts and 43 of 163 high school district do not have reserves of more than 15%. More critically, these 113 districts include a high proportion of the larger, already high property tax districts. Some 42,000 of Montana's 151,000 students (27%) receive their education in the 113 districts with reserves of less than 15% of the general fund budget. These 113 districts lie in 30 of Montana's 56 counties and stretch across the state from Kalispell, Plains and Whitefish to Chinook and Medicine Lake, and from Boulder and Helena to Judith Gap and

Manhattan. Indeed, most senators and representatives sitting on the House and Senate Education Committees, as well as on this sub-committee, represent districts that have limited reserves and that would be adversely impacted by the Governor's proposal. The facts are that one-fifth of Montana's school districts serving nearly a third of the state's children have only minimal reserves necessary for this fall's cash-flow requirements: these districts simply do not have a huge pool of locally produced revenue to also fund the state's withdrawal of 4% in the foundation program, as well as the additional loss in revenue from already set permissive levies if the foundation program is diminished.

Additionally, though discussion has centered on reserves, do not believe that most school districts could make up for lost foundation funding and permissive revenue by raising local property taxes. From a practical administrative viewpoint, you must realize that FY 87 school budgets and contracts have already been set and voted on in many districts. Moreover, from a political viewpoint, all of us realize that raising often already very high local taxes to pay for the state's education obligations is not going to happen. For example, to take an extreme but not uncommon case, we all know of Butte's already high voted levies and its recent trouble in passing a levy for '86-87. Butte's elementary and high school reserves, however, are low (1.7% and 1.1% respectively). Just to cover the 4% loss in foundation funding plus the additional 1% consequent loss in permissive revenue, Butte would have to spend 121% of its elementary reserves and 199% of its high school reserves. Alternatively, if Butte wants to maintain its already inadequate reserves and cover lost revenue through higher local mills, it will cost 5 mills for the elementary, plus 4 mills for the high school. Frankly, we all know 9 additional mills isn't going-to-fly in Butte. The situation

may not be as extreme in other localities, but in many cases it's not significantly different. Consider the chances of a levy passing in East Helen for the elementary school if 5 more mills were added, or in Billings or Polson if the elementary and high school levies were raised by 7.4 mills. Or consider the possibilities in Wyola, St. Ignatius and Browning where the districts are reeling from the federal governments threat to reduce PL-874 money by as much as 50% over the next three years and where local millage would need to be set from 7 to 25 mills higher just to cover a 4% foundation loss. In short higher property taxes are not a political reality; indeed, they may be political suicide. At the same time though, a failure by the State to fund education may well be educational homicide.

Finally, I hope the legislature recognizes that even if 113 districts use reserve expenditures, program cuts, and higher local taxes to make it through the chaos of the coming year that would be caused by withdrawal of the foundation program, next year at this time the situation would be far worse; the number of districts with inadequate reserves will be higher, education programs will be teetering on accreditation deficiencies, and the local taxpayer will be even more over-burdened and unwilling to increase millage.

In conclusion, the MEA believes this state has an obligation to provide a quality education for all. This obligation is to our children, our future, and to our Constitution. Fast solutions that don't resolve the problem and quick-fix's that don't repair the damage already done, won't suffice. To the contrary, maintaining our promise to school districts and the foundation program is only the first step -- in the near future revenue enhancement and a restructuring of the state's educational funding practices must be undertaken.