

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** By Rep. Diana Wyatt, Vice Chair, on January 18, 1993, at 3:10 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Rep. Alvin Ellis, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Ray Brandewie (R)  
Rep. Fritz Daily (D)  
Rep. Ervin Davis (D)  
Rep. Ed Dolezal (D)  
Rep. Dan Harrington (D)  
Rep. Jack Herron (R)  
Rep. Bob Gervais (D)  
Rep. Bea McCarthy (D)  
Rep. Scott McCulloch (D)  
Rep. Norm Mills (R)  
Rep. Bill Rehbein (R)  
Rep. Sam Rose (R)  
Rep. Dick Simpkins (R)  
Rep. Wilbur Spring (R)  
Rep. Norm Wallin (R)  
Rep. Diana Wyatt, Vice Chair (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. H.S. "Sonny" Hanson

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Andrea Merrill, Legislative Council  
Susan Lenard, Committee Secretary

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

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing: HB 113, HB 116, HB 141  
Executive Action: HB 116, HB 141

#### **HEARING ON HB 116**

##### **Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

REP. SCHYE, House District 18, Glasgow, introduced HB 116 as a simple bill. It would allow schools the option to increase or decrease the number of school board members, from five to seven.

Proponents' Testimony:

Bruce Moerer, Montana School Boards Association, said smaller school districts with three trustees have the authority to increase to five trustees and decrease to three members, depending upon the present population trend. He said HB 116 is not precedence setting and asked the committee to give a do pass recommendation on the bill.

Don Waldron, Montana Rural Education, commented HB 116 is a good option for small school districts. He urged the committee to support the bill.

Loran Frazier, School Administrators of Montana, asked to go on record in support of HB 116.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor: REP. SCHYE closed the hearing on HB 116.

HEARING ON HB 141

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. SPRING, House District 77, Northern Gallatin County, stated HB 141 is similar to a bill introduced to the Legislature in 1991 that failed to pass the Senate. He said there are citizens in Montana who do not have a direct vote for high school board members in schools their children attend.

Proponents' Testimony:

Barbara Brown, District Clerk of Springhill Elementary School, provided written testimony and spoke about taxpayers in two small school districts in Gallatin County that pay local high school taxes, but are unable to vote for members of the school board.  
EXHIBIT 1

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

REP. DAILY asked the sponsor if HB 141 would allow individuals to vote in more than one school district. REP. SPRING replied it would not.

REP. BRANDEWIE asked if these individuals would be able to vote on the mill levies. REP. SPRING said the bill deals only with their ability to vote for trustees.

REP. MCCARTHY asked if the individuals in question presently vote for any trustees in the particular district in which they are located. REP. SPRING stated they vote on their elementary board members but not for high school representation.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. SPRING said two years ago this bill passed quickly through the committee. He asked that HB 141 be given a do pass recommendation.

HEARING ON HB 113

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. SIMPKINS, House District 39, Great Falls, said HB 116 presents the opportunity for a joint working relationship between the U.S. Government, a local community, and the university system. He presented a video that introduced the projected dental hygiene program and the facilities to be used. The Great Falls Vocational-Technical Center was named as the ideal site in Montana for the program. An informational brief describing the collaborated effort was distributed. EXHIBIT 2

Proponents' Testimony:

William Zepp, Executive Director of the Montana Dental Association, spoke about the need for a dental hygiene program in Montana. He commented about the former program at Carroll College in the written testimony provided. EXHIBIT 3

Lorrie Merrick, Montana Dental Hygiene Association, asked the committee to support the establishment of the dental hygiene program.

Dr. Jack Noonan, Practicing Dentist, Great Falls, provided written testimony. EXHIBIT 4

Michele Kiesling, Dental Hygienist and Member of the Board of Dentistry, provided written testimony. EXHIBIT 5

Willard Weaver, Director of the Great Falls Vo-Tech Center, stated dental hygienists will be one of the top ten most sought after positions to meet the health care needs for the 1990's and beyond, as supported by U.S. Department of Labor projections. He said it is appropriate to set the dental hygiene program in a two-year institution. Mr. Weaver explained the program is being designed with the projected goal of full accreditation in mind. He urged the committee's support of HB 113.

Colonel Les Millar, Malmstrom Air Force Base, provided written testimony. EXHIBIT 6

**Aida Buer, Health Department Chair and Dental Assistant Instructor, Great Falls Vocational-Technical Center,** asked the committee to support HB 113. She presented written testimony from the office of Dr. Van Dyck, a periodontist in practice in Great Falls, in support of the program. **EXHIBIT 7**

**Kim Anderson, Registered Dental Hygienist and Member of the Dental Advisory Committee at the Great Falls Vo-Tech Center,** reported that Montana is the only state without educational opportunities for dental hygienists. She commented on the demand for individuals trained in the field.

**Ted Obrosinski, Healthco Dental Supply,** stressed the program is an ideal opportunity for Montana. He said the state would recognize a tremendous savings in start-up costs by using the facilities already in place at Malmstrom Air Force Base.

**Brady Vardemann, Associate Commissioner for Technical Education, Montana University System,** presented written testimony on behalf of the Montana Board of Regents, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, and the Montana postsecondary technical education system. **EXHIBIT 8**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Questions From Committee Members and Responses:**

**REP. BRANDEWIE** asked the sponsor if the bill was going to go to appropriations. **REP. SIMPKINS** replied it will be referred to an appropriations committee.

**REP. ELLIS** asked **REP. SIMPKINS** if the facility is to educate twelve students per year as another proponent's testimony had indicated. **REP. SIMPKINS** explained twelve students would graduate each year, such that there would be twenty-four in residence at one time. **REP. ELLIS** requested information on the number of students who now go out of state for this type of training. **REP. SIMPKINS** responded he did not know the number and asked **Ms. Vardemann** to address the question. **Ms. Vardemann** was unable to produce a figure either, but commented dental hygiene education was one of the major disciplines of which students took advantage in out-of-state exchange programs.

**REP. ELLIS** asked **Ms. Vardemann** if she knew the total cost to these students to be educated out-of-state. **Ms. Vardemann** did not have an answer.

**REP. ELLIS** asked if there was anyone else in the audience who could answer the question. **Ms. Vardemann** offered to locate the information and submit it to the sponsor of the bill.

**REP. ROSE** asked **Mr. Weaver** what would happen to the program if Malmstrom Air Force Base were to close. **Mr. Weaver** maintained it would not be a monumental problem. He said the Vo-Tech center has

requested to increase the present dental assistant program in the third year of funding. He indicated the Center could possibly add one or two additional dental chairs and extend the day program.

**Mr. Weaver** suggested that some course restructuring would probably have to occur.

**REP. ROSE** asked how the academic requirements for entry into the program would be determined. He asked if the program would be fairly competitive. **Mr. Weaver** said admissions would be competitive and that a fairly selective admissions process would be required. He said entry would be based upon a point system that would consider; present occupation, science course experience, recommendations, and others, with about fourteen different areas of assessment. **REP. ROSE** asked if the program would be weakened by making it a two-year, instead of a four-year program. **Mr. Weaver** said the national trend is to have such a program in a two-year institution. He stated no matter the institution, the program would need to be accredited.

**REP. DAILY** asked **Mr. Weaver** if he would accept an amendment that would allow the use of new Coal Tax Trust Fund money to provide for this program. **Mr. Weaver**, not being very familiar with the Coal Tax Trust Fund, was unable to address the question.

**REP. DAILY** asked **REP. SIMPKINS** the same question. **REP. SIMPKINS** stated new money cannot be diverted. Present law requires fifty-percent of new money to be put into the Coal Tax Trust Fund, while the other half may be spent. The money could be taken out of the permanent trust itself, but only with the permission of a three-quarter's vote. **REP. SIMPKINS** said this approval would probably not be attainable in the Legislature at this time. He insisted two other funding sources need to be considered; the university budget and the science and technology fund.

**REP. DAILY** asked the sponsor if he believed there was any possibility of getting the required funds from any other source. **REP. SIMPKINS** said he did, but emphasized the decision needs to be made in the education appropriations subcommittee.

**REP. MILLS** asked how the \$9750 to be spent on each student in this program compares with the cost per student in other departments. **REP. SIMPKINS** replied the costs are similar when one considers the \$4000 in state money put into students in the university system now, in addition to the cost of tuition. **REP. MILLS** asked if there would then be no tuition charges implemented for this program. **REP. SIMPKINS** indicated tuition would be charged.

**REP. GERVAIS** said the amendment offered by **REP. DAILY** would, in his estimation, kill the bill.

**REP. MCCARTHY**, commenting on the approval by the Board of Regents, asked if it was ever suggested the costs of the program be made supplemental to their budget. **REP. SIMPKINS** responded he

was not involved in the discussions of the Board of Regents. He said it was his understanding the Board has made the decision not to offer any new programs on any of the campuses in the state, and that increases will occur only in existing programs.

**REP. MCCARTHY** asked if any attempt has been made to find private start-up money. **Ms. Vardemann** stated efforts have been, and still are being made, to locate a private source of funds.

**REP. ELLIS** asked if the tuition for this program would be similar to existing Vo-Tech schools in Montana. **Ms. Vardemann** said the tuition would be similar to other programs with the same number of credit hours. She explained current board policy allows for a tuition rate of about \$1000 per semester. **REP. ELLIS** asked if students who have previously gone out of state would be excluded from getting into the Vo-Tech system. **Ms. Vardemann** commented on out-of-state exchange programs where students are given a tuition break if they are not residents of that state. She said this exchange program may change in Montana since more students are imported into the state than are exported.

**REP. MILLS** asked **Ms. Vardemann** to clarify the difference between the \$4000 available for tuition and the \$1000 she indicated would be available for each semester. **Ms. Vardemann** said Vo-Tech students pay about 27% of their total educational costs. **REP. SIMPKINS** offered the numbers might not make sense because the \$117,000 total was being divided by twelve (students) instead of twenty-four.

**REP. DAILY** asked **Mr. Weaver** if he could tell the committee the total cost per semester at each school. **Mr. Weaver** responded he did not know the exact figure, but considering tuition and fees, it was somewhere between \$900 and \$1000. He replied he would get the precise figures for **REP. DAILY**.

**REP. SIMPKINS** declared he would like to clarify the discussion. He said it costs the state \$4000 per year for each student anywhere in the university system. He said at 24 students, \$4000 per student, the total amount would be \$96,000. With a tuition of \$2000 per year, the total figure would rise to about \$130,000, which is actually a higher yield than the original \$117,000. **REP. SIMPKINS** said the amount is higher, and the cost to the state less, because Malmstrom Air Force Base is contributing to the overall expense of the program.

**REP. WYATT** asked **Col. Millar** if this program is structured after a program in existence in Dover, Delaware. **Col. Millar** stated this is not the first cooperative effort between the Air Force and a state. He stressed this particular program is similar to others already in existence. **REP. WYATT** asked if the existence of the Malmstrom Base is secure enough to expect a long-term commitment. **Col. Millar** commented that Malmstrom has undergone many changes in the past couple of years, but stressed the present command dental surgeon is very supportive of the

arrangement. He could not ensure the longevity of the base, but said it seems secure.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. SIMPKINS, commenting on all this committee has accomplished over the past few sessions, asked the members to consider the main objectives of the bill. He suggested by offering this program in the state, more students would remain as residents as they began entering the work force. The program would thus help the state's economy. REP. SIMPKINS stressed it is more cost effective to put a student into the work force in two years instead of four. He insisted the program combines all of the assets in one area in the state in order to; reduce the cost to the state of Montana, produce a quality product, and provide people in rural communities with the dental health care they desire. REP. SIMPKINS asked the committee to assist in finding proper funding support. He asserted accreditation would not occur without a funding guarantee. REP. SIMPKINS said he would ask for the bill to be referred to Appropriations. He noted his appreciation of the committee's support of HB 113.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 116

Motion/Vote: REP. MCCULLOCH MOVED HB 116 DO PASS. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 141

Motion: REP. ELLIS MOVED HB 141 DO PASS.


Discussion:

REP. ELLIS asked if any member on the committee was aware of any other form of government where an individual was denied a voice because of an economic threshold. REP. SPRING said there are other school districts, outside of his area, which would be affected by the bill.

Vote: HB 141 DO PASS. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:38 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
REP. DIANA WYATT, Vice Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SUSAN LENARD, Secretary

DW/SL



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## Education and Cultural Resources COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE

1/18/93

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. SONNY HANSON , CHAIR			✓
REP. ALVIN ELLIS , VICE-CHAIR	✓		
REP. DIANA WYATT , VICE-CHAIR	✓		
REP. RAY BRANDEWIE	✓		
REP. FRITZ DAILY	✓		
REP. ERVIN DAVIS	✓		
REP. ED DOLEZAL	✓		
REP. DAN HARRINGTON	✓		
REP. JACK HERRON	✓		
REP. BOB GERVAIS	✓		
REP. BEA MCCARTHY	✓		
REP. SCOTT MCCULLOCH	✓		
REP. NORM MILLS	✓		
REP. BILL REHBEIN	✓		
REP. SAM ROSE	✓		
REP. DICK SIMPKINS	✓		
REP. WILBUR SPRING	✓		
REP. NORM WALLIN	✓		

Vice Chair Wyatt sitting in for Chairman Hanson

HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 19, 1993

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Education and Cultural Resources report that House Bill 116 (first reading copy -- white) do pass .

Signed: Sonny Hanson  
Sonny Hanson, Chair

14094000.HSE

HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 19, 1993

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Education and Cultural Resources report that House Bill 141 (first reading copy -- white) do pass.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Sonny Hanson, Chair

HOUSE BILL 141 Changing Montana School Code Section 20-3-352

In gathering information concerning how many elementary school districts in Montana contained taxpayers who could not vote for trustees in the high school districts to which they sent their children and paid taxes, I contacted Superintendents of Schools in 51 of Montana's 56 counties. As of February 6 I had received 22 responses.

Ten of the counties contained elementary districts whose residents could not vote for trustees in the high school district in which they were located.

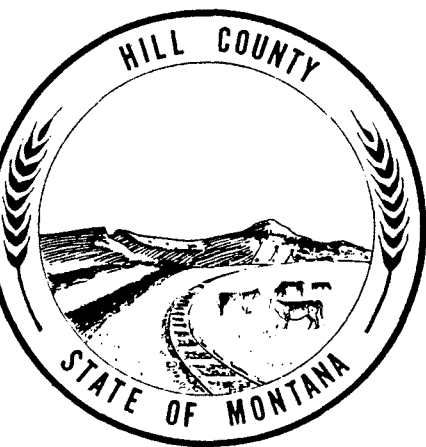
Some counties noted that the change in taxable valuations in 1990 will cause some elementary districts to lose their voting privileges. I am attaching correspondence from some counties where this situation exists.

In Gallatin County we have two elementary districts, #20-Springhill, and #25-Pass Creek, who are in the Belgrade High School District. There are 62 registered voters in District #20 who paid a total of \$6,100 in school taxes to the Belgrade District. In Pass Creek there are 58 registered voters who paid a total of \$6,400 in school taxes to the Belgrade District. None of the taxpayers in these districts can vote for a member of the Belgrade School Board because the total taxable valuation of these districts does not equal one-seventh of the taxable valuation of the Belgrade School District. Belgrade is a class A school with a seven member board.

I would like Section 20-3-352 changed so that all taxpayers in a school district can vote for a representative on the school board.

The legislation passed last session giving districts a non-voting representative on the high school boards does not properly solve the problem. Voters in the small elementary districts do not have a voice on selecting a voting member for the board which makes policies affecting their schools and compiles budgets for the schools.

*Barbara R. Braun*



# Hill County Superintendent of Schools

315 4th Street  
Havre, Montana 59501

Shirley Isbell, Superintendent  
Phillis Long, Deputy  
(406)265-5481, Ext. 50

EXHIBIT 1  
DATE 1/18/93  
SB HB 141

DATE: January 28, 1991

TO: Barbara Brown

FROM: Shirley Isbell, Superintendent of Schools  
Hill County *Shirley Isbell*

RE: House Bill to allow all persons in a school district  
to vote for trustees

Your letter of January 23rd has been received, and I will do my best to answer your questions.

There are three elementary districts that appear to be similar to your situation. Until this year, the residents of those districts voted for a representative to the Board who voted on high school issues. This will change in '91 as one of the districts is going to have their own high school and the assessed valuation in another has dropped below that allowed by law. Consequently, these two outlying positions will be dropped and a new at-large position opened. Residents in both districts will have the opportunity to vote for the candidate of their choice in the April election.

The assessed valuation in each of the districts in School District A is:

District 16	\$ 16,975,388.	District 12	\$ 333,297.
District 57	\$ 2,385,743.	District 87	\$ 37,136.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

EUGENE (GENE) COWAN  
Loring, Montana

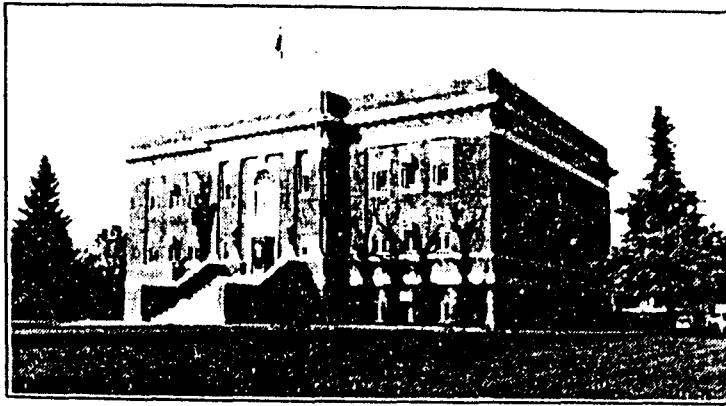
SHERMAN DOUCETTE  
Malta, Montana

WAYNE C. STAHL  
Saco, Montana

Clerk and Recorder  
INGELEF I. SCHWARTZ

Treasurer  
MARION K. GOULET

PHILLIPS COUNTY



Malta, Montana  
59538

Assessor  
JEANNE L. BARNARD

Sheriff - Coroner  
LORN ANDERSON

Clerk of Court  
FRANCES WEBB

Superintendent of Schools  
GARY A. BADEN

County Attorney  
JOHN C. McKEON

Justice of Peace  
GAYLE STAHL

District Judge  
LEONARD H. LANGEN  
Glasgow, Montana

January 29, 1991

Ms. Barbara Brown  
4681 Springhill Community Road  
Belgrade, MT 59714

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am enclosing information regarding your inquiry of 01/23/91:

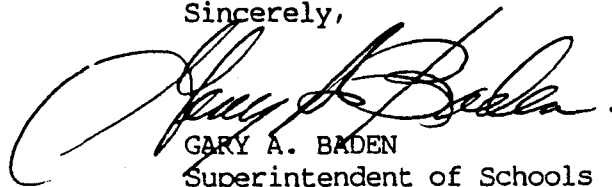
1. A sheet of taxable valuations, color coded per high school district (the assessor compiles these based on a cemetery districting)
2. A copy of last year's valuation arithmetic for the Malta High School District

As you can see, the Malta District has two elementary districts (#6 and #8AA) that do not come up to the arithmetic derivation for a nominating trustee position. (20-3-352 MCA) However, the clerks of those districts submit ballots to their voters, and they participate in the high school election during their district election.

It seems to me that such an arrangement could be made for your situation, thereby avoiding a change in the law while giving you the right to vote in your high school's election. This is a courtesy provided by the high school clerk to the outlying elementary clerk.

You will note that the Dodson High School District contains the Landusky District (#7) and that the arithmetic comes up to the legal requirement for a nominating trustee(s). They have, so far, not availed themselves of the privilege, for whatever reason.

Sincerely,

  
GARY A. BADEN  
Superintendent of Schools

GAB/sek  
encl.

# LIBERTY COUNTY, MONTANA

Office of

## County Superintendent of Schools

Chester, Mont. 59522

EXHIBIT 1

DATE 1/18/93

~~SS~~ HB 141

January 30, 1991

TO: Barbara Brown  
FROM: Krys Cole *Krys Cole*  
Liberty County Supt. of Schools  
RE: Outlying Trustee Positions

I thank you for your letter which drew my attention to the representation on high school boards.

With taxable valuations decreasing drastically in some gas and oil districts this past year the representation for the rural district in Liberty County will need to be redesignated.

I have read and reread Sections 20-2-352, 20-3-353, 20-3-354, School Laws of Montana, MCA. 1989, and find that your situation needs to be addressed here.

At this time the voters in #27 are not aware of the need to redesignate. There will be the board meeting in February and more information will be available to present.

Hope the figures below are helpful. Please call if you need more information. (office-759-5216 or home-759-5701)

'90 Registered Voters: #10 = 14  
#27 = 37

1990 - 1991

# 10	160,442.00 **
# 27	475,603.00
	<u>\$ 636,045.00</u>

#33 Elem. 6,570,455.00

#33 H. S. - 7,206,500.00

Formula: #33 Elem.  $\$6,570,455.00 \div 5$  trustees =  $\$1,314,091.00$  per trustee

Outlying: #10 & #27  $\$ 636,045.00 \div \$1,314,091.00 = .48$  (no representation!)

### Taxable Valuations:

1989-90	#10	\$ 194,760.00
	#27	2,520,170.00

1988-89	#10	\$ 208,084.00
		3,256,264.00

\*\*School District #10 is a Hutterite Colony with a public school district which does not wish to have representation on the #33 H. S. board.

**ROY M. DELONG**

Commissioner

**JOHN MUSTER**

Commissioner

**NORMAN E. RESLER**

Commissioner

**DIXIE VAUGHT**

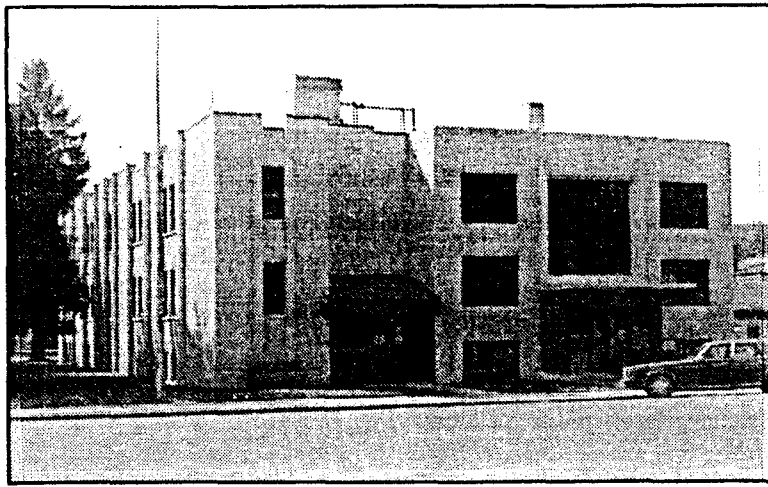
Clerk & Recorder

**JUNE M. THAYER**

Treasurer - Supt. of Schools

**PATRICIA N. ELDRIDGE**

Assessor



**LISA FERKOVICH**

Clerk of District Court

**ROBERT SLOMSKI**

Attorney

**WILLIAM J. ALEXANDER**

Sheriff

**DIANNE K. FRANKE**

Administrator

**MARK A. DENKE**

Coroner

**ROBERT BEITZ**

Justice of the Peace

# COUNTY OF SANDERS

STATE OF MONTANA

P.O. Box 519

Thompson Falls, Montana 59873

January 28, 1991

Barbara Brown  
4681 Springhill Comm. Rd.  
Belgrade, MT 59714

Dear Ms. Brown:

I not quite sure of question of disenfranchised. However, we do have one school district that lost a trustee of the valuation went down. They were a part of the high school district. That school district is Hot Springs with the elementary district a part of Camas Prarie District # 11.

The Trout Creek elementary district is a part of Noxon High School district. Some parents do send high school students to Thompson Falls district. This is the choice made by the parents. At most I would say that, it would be 20 people. The clerk and recorder could not give me any estimate at all.

Enclosed are the taxable valuations of the elementary schools in Sanders County. If I can be of any further please contact me.

Sincerely,

Ted R. Kato  
Sanders County Supt.



RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

The collaboration between the Great Falls Vocational-Technical Center and Malmstrom Air Force Base would provide state-of-the-art equipment, supplies, and education necessary to the Dental Hygiene Program and would offset start-up costs.

This innovative partnership between education and government makes the best use of available resources and expertise to provide a quality Dental Hygiene Program which would be of significant benefit to the State of Montana.

PROJECTED BUDGET (First Three Years/Ongoing)

First Year . . . . .	\$ 89,641
Second Year . . . . . (Equipment/Science Lab to Meet Accreditation Standards)	\$192,770
Third Year . . . . . (Improve Existing On-Campus Dental Clinic to meet Accreditation Standards)	\$226,050
Ongoing . . . . .	\$117,230

Dental Hygiene Program approved by Montana Board of Regents, June 1992

- Fostered by:
- Montana Board of Dentistry
  - Montana Dental Association
  - Montana Dental Hygienist Association
  - Malmstrom Air Force Base
  - Great Falls Vocational-Technical Center

DENTAL  
HYGIENE

EXHIBIT 2

DATE 1/18/93

LB 113

Training Montana Residents  
for

Jobs in Montana

Access to Dental Health Care  
for Montana Citizens

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, in 1991 experienced Dental Hygienists earned from \$14 to \$18 per hour. For full-time work earnings would be about \$25,500 to \$31,500 a year.

These earnings would support a quality lifestyle for a Montana family.

## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Current labor market predictions indicate that the demand for dental hygiene care will increase due to the growing population and public awareness of the importance of dental health. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment prospects will be especially good for Dental Hygienists willing to work in rural locations.

This projection is especially meaningful to a rural state such as Montana. A recent survey completed by the Montana Dental Association revealed there is a critical shortage of Dental Hygienists to provide essential dental health services for Montana residents.

## **EDUCATION FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS IN MONTANA**

Currently, there is no educational program in Montana for Dental Hygienists. Residents who leave the state for training often do not return because employment in the area where training occurred is readily available.

A Dental Hygiene Program in Montana would allow residents access to education and encourage retention of Montanans for work in the state.

There is strong interest in the proposed two-year Associate of Applied Science Degree Program. More than 100 persons have indicated a desire to enroll in the program.

## **AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IN MONTANA**

Montana Dentists and Dental Hygienists have been very active over the past three years in their efforts to establish a program for Dental Hygienists.

A national consultant, compensated through monies from the Montana Board of Dentistry, recommended that an educational program be established in Montana.

Proposals were widely solicited across Montana from entities interested in establishing a Dental Hygiene Program. Butte, Great Falls and Helena responded. The national consultant reviewed each proposal and recommended the Program be sited at the Great Falls Vocational-Technical Center.

## **DETERMINING FACTORS FOR SITE SELECTION**

- Malmstrom Air Force Base will allocate several operatory stations within its state-of-the-art dental clinic for students to complete required clinical experience. This commitment will save approximately \$130,000 per year;
- The opportunity to share similar resources and equipment now utilized by the Dental Assistant Program offered at the Great Falls Vocational-Technical Center will create a significant reduction in program start-up costs;
- Great Falls is centrally located among the state's eleven dental regions and major cities. This location will make the program more accessible to Montana residents, encourage an equitable balance in student recruitment, and enhance the distribution of Hygienists throughout the state.



EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 1/18/93  
#B 113

1 of 2

2

## Montana Dental Association

P.O. Box 1154 • Helena, MT 59624  
(406) 443-2061 • FAX: (406) 443-1546

Constituent: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

January 18, 1993

### Officers - 1992-1993

#### President

Terry J. Zahn, D.D.S.  
690 SW Higgins Avenue  
Missoula, MT 59803

#### President Elect

James H. Johnson, D.D.S.  
2370 Avenue C  
Billings, MT 59102

#### Vice-President

Frank V. Searl, D.D.S.  
130 13th Street  
Havre, MT 59501

#### Secretary-Treasurer

Douglas S. Hadnot, D.D.S.  
Southgate Mall  
Missoula, MT 59801

#### Past President

Don A. Spurgeon, D.D.S.  
2615 16th Avenue South  
Great Falls, MT 59405

#### Delegate at Large

Roger L. Kiesling, D.D.S.  
121 N. Last Chance Gulch  
Helena, MT 59601

#### Executive Director

William E. Zepp  
P.O. Box 1154  
Helena, MT 59624

### Chairperson Hanson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bill Zepp and I am the Executive Director of the Montana Dental Association, located here in Helena. The Montana Dental Association, currently composed of 482 Montana dentists, is proud of its historical role and involvement as a primary advocate for accredited dental hygiene education in the state.

In the early 1970's, members of the MDA contributed nearly \$100,000 toward the establishment and operation of a dental hygiene program at Carroll College in Helena.

In 1988, after several years of difficulty regarding enrollment, recruitment, operating costs, and a philosophical debate over the existence of a dental hygiene program within the four year liberal arts environment, Carroll College announced the closure of the program, effective in June of 1990, leaving Montana without a local source of trained dental hygienists. The closure also left Montana as the only state in the nation without a dental hygiene education program. After attempts to encourage Carroll to maintain the program proved futile, the MDA began working with the Board of Dentistry and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to reestablish an accredited program within the Montana University System.

In 1989, MDA brought representatives of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) to speak to both the Montana University System Board of Regents and the Board of Dentistry. The Commission on Dental Accreditation is the sole accrediting body for dental and dental-related programs, including dental assisting, dental hygiene, and dental laboratory technology. The Commission is empowered by both the United States Department of Education (USDOE) and the Commission on Post-Secondary Accreditation (COPA) to establish and maintain standards for dental and dental-related programs, just as the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges sets standards and provides accreditation for schools and colleges in the northwestern

DATE 1/18/93§B 113

United States, including Montana. The CODA representatives clarified standards and requirements for both the Regents and the Board of Dentistry in looking to the reestablishment of an accredited dental hygiene program. Of particular interest and concern was the establishment of a two year program and its placement in a vocational technical setting. As CODA then indicated, such programs comprised the majority of the accredited programs in the country. In fact, the January 1993 Annual Report of the Commission indicates that 84% or 177 of the 210 accredited programs of dental hygiene education are located in similar settings, granting the associate degree in dental hygiene.

In the Fall of 1990, surveys conducted by the MDA and the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences Chief Dental Officer indicated a need for hygienists throughout the state, with the possible exception of the Butte and Bozeman communities. This data was later incorporated in the program proposal from Great Falls Vocational Technical Center. Dentists throughout Montana continue to indicate difficulty in employing hygienists, despite a rising pay scale.

Reserve funds from the Board of Dentistry were utilized to fund a consultancy, filled by Sherry Burke, Dental Hygiene educator from Delaware Technical and Community College in Wilmington, which ultimately resulted in the identification of the Great Falls Vocational Technical Center's cooperative proposal with Malmstrom Air Force Base as the most ideal setting for a new program.

Once the Great Falls site was identified, an Advisory Committee was formed in 1991, including representatives of the Great Falls Vocational Technical Center, Malmstrom Air Force Base, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Board of Dentistry, the Montana Dental Hygienists Association, the Montana Dental Association, and dentists and hygienists from the Great Falls area. After considerable time and effort by all interested parties, the Board of Regents of the Montana University System granted approval to the program in June of 1992. However, as in the case of all newly approved programs, dental hygiene was not included in the Regents Budget for this biennium.

Based on the established need for trained dental hygienists in the state of Montana, the cooperative efforts of all interested parties, particularly the Malmstrom/Great Falls Vo Tech partnership, the strength of the proposed program, and the ultimate benefit to the citizens of Montana, the Advisory Committee determined that the program should be presented to the 1993 Legislature. We are not insensitive to the budgetary problems of the state facing this legislative assembly, but do feel that the Dental Hygiene Education program ultimately provides solutions and benefits in educating Montanans for good jobs in Montana.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

JOHN T. NOONAN, D.D.S., P.C.  
114 - 13TH STREET SOUTH  
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59405  
TELEPHONE: (406) 453-1495

EXHIBIT 4  
DATE 1/18/93  
HB 113

January 18, 1992

House Bill #113

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

About two years ago the Board of Dentistry provided seed money to the Board of Regents to hire a consultant to come to Montana to assess our need for a dental hygiene school and to set up a curriculum for this school.

This was completed and in April 1992 a proposal for the hygiene school was submitted to the Board of Regents. It was accepted enthusiastically by the Board of Regents but unfortunately was not funded.

House Bill #113 provides funding of \$89,641 for 1993 and \$192,770 in 1994. This seems like a very small expenditure to train twelve young Montana students per year into the highly technical profession of Dental Hygiene. These young men and women would then have the ability to provide Montana with the dental hygiene services now lacking in Montana and provide for themselves a fine profession and a good income.

The need for hygienists in Montana is great and since the closure of the hygiene program at Carroll College five years ago has become acute. At the present time the dentists in Eastern Montana have requested the Western Regional Examining Board, which is the testing facility for Montana, to hold a hygiene examination in Sheridan Wyoming this year in hopes they may attract some graduates from this school to eastern Montana.

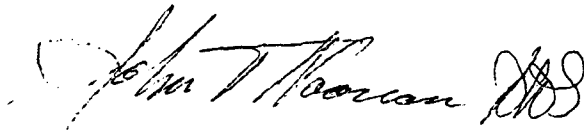
Malstrom Air Force Base has offered the facilities of their dental clinic to help train these students. In doing so they are also offering a diversity of dental hygiene patients which is very important to such a program.

This program will be a two year associate degree program with the ability of the student to transfer credits within the University system to attain a B.S. degree if he or she so desires.

If the facilities at Malstrom were not available we would be looking at the constuction of a multimillion dollar facility to house this program.

I urge you to support H.B.#113. It is the best offer the State of Montana and it's young people have ever had.

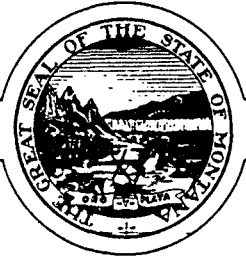
Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John T. Moorman", followed by a stylized monogram or set of initials.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

EXHIBIT 5  
DATE 1/18/93  
HB 113

111 N. JACKSON



STATE OF MONTANA

HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0407

BOARD OF DENTISTRY

January 18, 1993

To: House Education and Cultural Resources Committee

From: Montana Board of Dentistry

RE: HOUSE BILL 113

Chairperson Hanson and Committee Members,

Montana's only Dental Hygiene education program was discontinued in May of 1990. Montana is now the only state in the United States that does not offer an educational program in Dental Hygiene to its residents.

In June, 1990, the Board of Dentistry provided funding to hire a consultant whose duties included conducting a study on the need for a program, determination of the appropriate site for the program, and formulating a draft proposal for the curriculum of the program. The members of this House Committee are undoubtedly familiar with the resulting program proposal that the Board of Regents approved for implementation, pending the appropriation of funds.

This program would not only help serve the dental health care needs of the people of Montana, but would offer our Montana students an educational opportunity for an excellent professional career.

The Board of Dentistry supports the establishment of an accredited program of dental hygiene education in the state of Montana. The members of the Board of Dentistry are very aware of the financial dilemma that Montana now faces, we ask that you please consider funding this educational program that will create a "win-win" situation for the students and citizens of our great state.

#### Malmstrom Air Force Base

Malmstrom is composed of two wings, 1) the 43rd Air Refueling Wing which has host base responsibilities and is headquarters for regional elements at both Fairchild AFB (Spokane) WA and Minot AFB, N.D. 2) the 341st Missile Wing that is currently upgrading an additional one hundred missiles from the older Minuteman II to the more modern Minuteman III.

#### Malmstrom Dental Clinic

The modern medical/dental complex is just three years old opening in Feb of 1990. The dental clinic has 22 dental treatment rooms with 11 dentists and one civilian dental hygienist. With excess capacity and a large patient population, the Malmstrom dental clinic is an ideal location for the clinical phase of Montana's proposed dental hygiene program. This arrangement has support and approval from base officials, Air Mobility Command (AMC) and Headquarters United States Air Force (USAF). We are offering dental treatment rooms with state of the art equipment and supplies.

Why offer the Malmstrom Dental Clinic?

1. Tax dollars have built this facility and the military is encouraged to contribute to and support the local community. Also, it is a way of saying "thank you" to Montana for the finest Military Affairs Committee (MAC) and the most positive community support that I have experienced in my military career.

2. I feel a part of Montana. My brother-in-law and his family moved to Montana about seven years ago, since 1986 and prior to this assignment we were visiting Montana and considering retiring here. As Montana might become our adopted state "we" (the State of Montana) need a dental hygiene program.

3. I found out that my father went to high school in Missoula. So, Montana even has some family heritage.

4. Finally: Yes, there is some benefit for the Air Force as we would be able to capture the productivity generated by the hygiene students. The patients would be eligible beneficiaries of a military medical treatment facility.

Thus, this is a mutually beneficial program for both the State of Montana and the USAF.



January 13, 1993

TO: House Education and Cultural Resources Committee

RE: House Bill 113

Establishment of a Dental Hygiene Program for the State of Montana

Dear Committee Members:

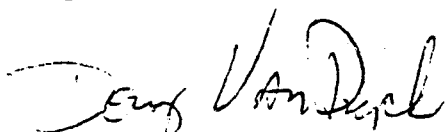
We are asking for your support in the development of a dental hygiene program for the training of dental hygienists for the State of Montana. At this time there is a critical need of dental hygiene personnel in the State of Montana. Montana is one of few states in the nation which does not offer a training program in dental hygiene.

The ground work for an excellent applied science degree program in dental hygiene has been completed and is ready for implementation by the Great Falls Vocational Technical Center. If funding for this program is provided, this center has the potential to be one of the premiere dental hygiene teaching facilities in this section of the country. Classrooms and clinics are already in place and can be used for the dental hygiene training program.

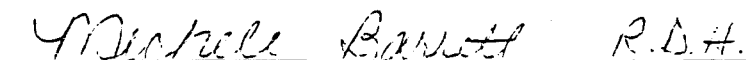
The advisory committee which is responsible for establishing the curriculum for the potential dental hygiene program consists of a broad range of experts in the field including hygienists, dental assistants, dentists, dental specialists, and academicians. This advisory committee has formulated an excellent curriculum. Students who will enroll in this program will be provided a comprehensive education which will be a great asset to the people of Montana.

The waiting list for people to enroll in the program is already quite large and is growing daily. Young people in Montana want jobs. Dental hygiene is an excellent profession. The people in Montana deserve access to quality dental care. At this time there is no dental hygiene program in the state of Montana which can provide well trained dental hygienists.

Signed:



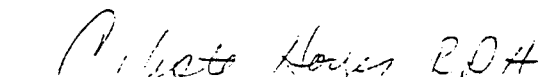
C. Douglas Van Dyck, D.D.S., M.S.D., Periodontist



Michele Barrett, Registered Dental Hygienist



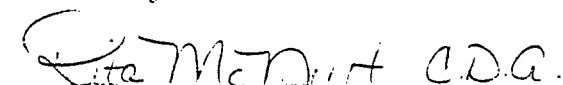
Barb Flaherty, Registered Dental Hygienist



Celeste Hoyer, Registered Dental Hygienist



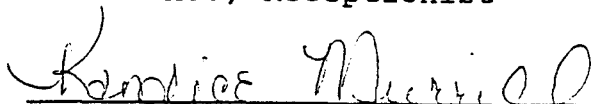
Zandy McAllister, Certified Dental Assistant



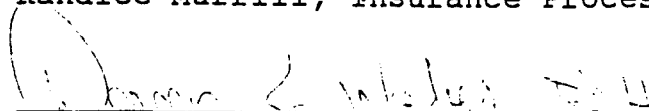
Rita McNutt, Certified Dental Assistant



Sharon Moe, Receptionist



Kandice Murrill, Insurance Processor/Secretary



Doreen Weber, Registered Dental Hygienist

1/18/93

113

Education Program

Commissioner at all levels of planning, and  
action a few months ago in approving the  
ociate degree program.

Committee: for the  
the Associate  
University System.

the Board has taken the position that -- given  
ancial times -- it will not in and of itself  
educational programs, the Regents do stand in  
rticular initiative if funds can be made  
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Montana Board of  
Higher Education, and  
System.

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in meeting

Every possible

that optimizes the

of the venture,

about virtually all

in dental hygiene

has been involved in

long the way --

participating through

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
VISITOR REGISTER

Education COMMITTEE BILL NO. HB 116  
DATE Jan. 18, 1993 SPONSOR(S) Schye  
PLEASE PRINT PLEASE PRINT PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Bruce W. Moore	SSBA	X	
L. F. Brown	SAM	X	
Don Walden	MREA	X	

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS  
ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
VISITOR'S REGISTER

Education

COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HB 191

DATE Jan 18, 1993 SPONSOR(S)

Spring

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
BARBARA R. BROWN 4681 Springhill Comm Rd. Belgrad	SPRINGHILL SCHOOL BA	✓	
Don Walden	My R E A —		

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS  
ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
VISITOR REGISTER**

Education

COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HB 113

DATE Jan. 18, 1993 SPONSOR(S) Simpkins

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NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Millar, Leslie C. 4448 E. Summit Dr	Malmstrom AFB	X	
Aida B Buer 4231 Central Ave Great Falls, MT 59405	Great Falls Vocational-Technical Center	X	
Kim Anderson, ROH 3925 16th Ave. So. Great Falls 59405	Advisory Committee - GF Vocational-Technical Center	X	
William E. Zapp 710 TOUCHSTONE DR. HELENA, MT 59601	MONTANA DENTAL ASSOCIATION	X	
TED OBROSLINSKI 1803 16 AVE SO GREAT FALLS 2100 16TH AVE SO.	HEALTHED DENTAL	X	
WILLARD WEAVER GREAT FALLS VTECH	GREAT FALLS VO-TECH	X	
Brady Vardemann	MHS/OHE	X	
Judy Harbrett 11 Redwood Bute	MDHA	X	
Lois merriam PO Box 853 Helena, MT 59405	MDHA	X	
Mary McCue Helena, MT.	Montana Dental Assn.	X	
Michelle Kieding	Board of Dentistry	X	
John T. Morrison	Board of Dentistry	X	
Deborah J. Paus	Advisory Committee, G. Falls	X	
Lisa Carman	Board of Dentistry	X	

**PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.**