

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: Senator Taylor Brown, on February 5, 2009 at
10:00 A.M., in Room 303 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Jeff Essmann, Chairman (R)
Sen. Taylor Brown, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Jerry W. Black (R)
Sen. Gary Branae (D)
Sen. Ron Erickson (D)
Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)
Sen. Kim Gillan (D)
Sen. Bradley Hamlett (D)
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Sen. Bob Story Jr. (R)
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Lee Heiman, Legislative Branch
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 342, 2/2/2009

Executive Action: None

HEARING ON SB 342

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:38 Sen. Jeff Essmann (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 342, Student scholarship organizations and tax credits for donations for scholarships.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:07:00 Jeff Laszloffy, President, Montana Family Foundation
EXHIBIT (tas27a01)

00:12:28 Leslie Davis Hiner, Attorney, Director of Programs & State Relations, The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, Indianapolis, Indiana

00:18:23 Liz Zink, Livingston

00:21:40 Jordan Marquis, Junior at Great Falls Catholic High School, Great Falls

00:23:22 Joe Sullivan, Attorney, Great Falls, also School Board President of Great Falls Catholic High School, speaking for self as parent

00:26:26 Janna Centifonte, Senior at Valley Christian High School, Missoula

00:28:00 Clarice King, Superintendent, Two Eagle River School, Pablo also presented written testimony for TaShina Malatare and Nate Drennan

EXHIBIT (tas27a02)

EXHIBIT (tas27a03)

00:32:04 Harry Plummer, Superintendent of Schools, Great Falls Catholic High School, Great Falls

00:35:22 Greg Gianforte, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Right Now Technologies, Bozeman

00:37:03 Jennifer Michaels, parent, Billings

00:39:45 Dennis Burton, Cradlepoint Technology, Flathead County

00:41:32 Debra Thompson, Ulm, parent of children who attend Great Falls Catholic School

00:44:01 Dillan Foster, student, Stillwater Christian High

00:45:18 David Halliburton, Lakeside, parent of Stillwater Christian High School student

00:46:34 Carrie McCleary, Big Horn County

00:47:51 Wayne Buchanan, self, long time Montana educator

00:52:31 Sandra Sales, resident, Gallatin County

00:53:54 LaRae McGuire

Opponents' Testimony:

00:55:52 Eric Feaver, President, MEA/MFT

[EXHIBIT\(tas27a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tas27a05\)](#)

01:10:13 Donald Jones, Attorney, and Trustee, Helena School Board

[EXHIBIT\(tas27a06\)](#)

01:14:24 Dick Cameron, Superintendent, Broadus County

01:16:12 Ann Gilkey, Chief Counsel, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

01:17:46 Bob Vogel, representing Montana Schools Boards Association (MTSBA)

01:19:45 Scott Crichton, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:20:50 Sen. Hamlett

01:21:25 Sen. Essmann

01:21:44 Sen. Tutvedt

01:22:19 Ann Gilkey, OPI

01:22:48 Leslie Hiner

01:23:26 Sen. Tutvedt

01:23:56 Sen. Branae

01:24:26 Sen. Essmann

01:25:55 Sen. Kaufmann

01:26:28 Sen. Essmann

01:27:30 Sen. Kaufmann

01:27:50 Eric Feaver, MEA/MFT

01:28:41 Sen. Kaufmann

01:29:06 Sen. Essmann

01:29:36 Sen. Kaufmann

01:30:01 Jeff Laszloffy

01:30:32 Sen. Kaufmann

01:30:45 Jeff Laszloffy

01:30:59 Eric Feaver

01:31:14 Sen. Brown

01:31:22 Todd Hicks, Bozeman

01:31:38 Sen. Kaufmann (objected to previous witness thus response not allowed)

01:31:43 Sen. Brown

01:31:48 Sen. Kaufmann

01:31:55 Harry Plummer

01:32:22 Sen. Kaufmann

01:32:37 Harry Plummer

01:32:52 Sen. Black

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: (Con't)

01:33:24 Sen. Essmann
01:34:34 Sen. Black
01:35:21 Wayne Buchanan
01:37:05 Sen. Erickson
01:37:57 Sen. Essmann
01:38:25 Sen. Erickson
01:38:49 Sen. Essmann
01:39:53 Sen. Story
01:40:40 Sen. Essmann
01:41:36 Sen. Story
01:41:55 Jeff Laszloffy

EXHIBIT (tas27a07)

01:44:16 Sen. Black
01:44:43 Leslie Hiner
01:47:42 Sen. Black
01:47:56 Leslie Hiner
01:48:53 Sen. Story
01:49:43 Jeff Laszloffy
01:51:36 Sen. Story
01:53:35 Jeff Laszloffy
01:55:23 Sen. Gillan
01:55:56 Jeff Laszloffy
01:56:58 Sen. Gillan
01:57:24 Jeff Laszloffy
01:58:22 Sen. Erickson
01:58:55 Jeff Laszloffy

Closing by Sponsor:

02:00:02 Sen. Essmann

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:05 P.M.

Debra Polhemus, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([tas27aad.pdf](#))