

House Finance and Taxation Committee
HB 1281

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Chairman Headland and Committee

I urge the House Finance and Tax Committee to support House Bill 1281. This is a step in the right direction. I believe that all tax dollars should follow the student. I believe all parents have the right to choose the best education for their kids.

I am attaching a copy of the US Supreme Court decision from June, 2020. I believe that this decision has some bearing on HB 1281.

Religion and schools

May a state exclude church schools from a state-sponsored tuition aid program that supports students in other private schools, or does that exclusion amount to unconstitutional discrimination against religion?

That is unconstitutional discrimination based on religion, the court said in a 5-4 ruling in **Espinoza vs. Montana**. The Montana Supreme Court had blocked the \$500.00 grants on the grounds that the state's constitution, like those of most states, forbids giving tax money to churches or their affiliates. But Chief Justice Roberts, writing for the court, said the discriminatory policy violates the 1st Amendment and its protection for the free exercise of religion. In dissent were Justices Breyer, Ginsburg, Sotomayor and Kagan.

I urge a **DO PASS** on House Bill 1281