



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona State Legislature

Speaker of the House Rusty Bowers (R-25)

President of the Senate Karen Fann (R-1)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Bowers and President Fann File *Amicus* Brief with U.S. Supreme Court

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Speaker Rusty Bowers (R-25) and Senate President Karen Fann (R-1) today announced that they had filed an *amicus curiae* brief in the Esperanza vs. Montana Department of Revenue case, which will be considered by the United States Supreme Court in the upcoming term.

In Esperanza v. Montana Department of Revenue, the Supreme Court will determine if it violates the U.S. Constitution's religious clauses or equal protection clause to invalidate a religiously neutral school aid program simply because students could attend religious schools as part of the program.

The [amicus curiae brief urges](#) the Supreme Court to affirm that school choice programs that afford students an opportunity to attend religious schools are constitutional by overturning the Montana Supreme Court's ruling.

“Students shouldn’t be excluded from the benefits of a school choice program because of their religious beliefs,” said Speaker Bowers. **“For too long, school choice opponents have used religious discrimination codified into law by the Blaine Amendments to deprive students of a chance at a better education. I hope the Supreme Court finally rights this wrong.”**

“The Montana Supreme Court’s decision is in direct conflict with the Arizona Supreme Court’s decision upholding a very similar school choice program,” said President Fann, **“and it would create a dangerous precedent if allowed to stand.”**

In addition to Speaker Bowers and President Fann, Montana Speaker of the House Greg Hertz, Montana Senate Majority Leader Fred Thomas, and Nebraska Senator and Education Committee Chairman Mike Groene also signed onto the brief.

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CONTACT:

Matthew Specht
Director of Communications
House Majority Staff
602-926-5518
mspecht@azleg.gov

Mike Philipsen
Director of Communications
Senate Majority Staff
602-926-3972
mphilipsen@azleg.gov