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Homeschoolers of Idaho:

We understand that tax credit legislation which will include homeschoolers may be introduced again in the Idaho legislature next year. While it is true that HSLDA generally endorses tax credits because they involve taxpayers simply retaining a portion of their money, we oppose such legislation in Idaho because of the substantial risk of additional regulation in an otherwise free state.

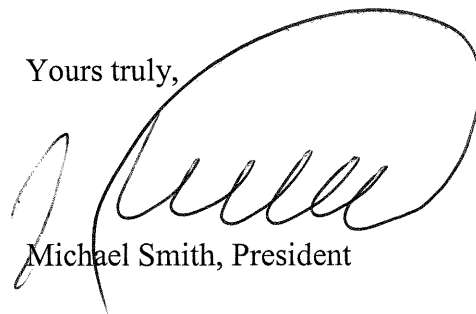
In the past when similar tax credit legislation was introduced in Idaho, at the first committee hearing homeschoolers were informed by pro-homeschooling Representatives that there would have to be "accountability" for homeschoolers if they received tax benefits. As a result, we joined ICHE and CHOIS in voicing our opposition to tax credits for homeschoolers in Idaho.

Idaho is one of the few states left where there is essentially no government regulation of home education. Because of the tremendous freedom in Idaho, even well-intended legislation on behalf of homeschoolers, including tax credits, will tend to bring scrutiny on the homeschool law and concerns that there is no regulation of homeschooling in Idaho. This long-standing freedom has been maintained in part because of the vigilance of ICHE and CHOIS in opposing any change in the homeschool law that would bring any kind of regulation.

I have had the privilege of working with ICHE, CHOIS, and Barry Peters for many years in their role as the liaisons to the Idaho Legislature. Barry has done an outstanding job in leading the fight to preserve Idaho homeschool freedoms. I agree with Barry when he states, "Our precious freedoms are too valuable to be traded for government assistance."

Because of this reality, HSLDA joins ICHE and CHOIS in opposing tax credits for homeschoolers in the state of Idaho.

Yours truly,



Michael Smith, President