

## SAM Tracked Bills, Call to Action - SB235

1 message

**Rob Watson** <SAMLN@saom.memberclicks.net>  
Reply-To: samrw@sammt.org  
To: samks@sammt.org

Sun, Feb 5, 2023 at 9:22 PM

Hello SAM Legislative Network;

Attached you will find two reports.

1. SAM Tracked Bills, spreadsheet with all bills we are following, last three actions and SAM position statement on each bill.
2. Upcoming Hearings, 2/6 - 2/13 with SAM notes and position statement.

Reminder that these two reports will be updated 2 times each week.

### **CALL TO ACTION - OPPOSE SB235**

Also - I would like you to consider writing a short note opposing [SB235](#), which will be heard **Monday, Feb 6 at 3pm in Senate Education**. (*Reminder that the committees don't generally take any action during the hearing. If you miss the deadline for the hearing - you can still send a message opposing the bill, as the committee will likely take a week or so before they take action on this bill.*)

#### What does this bill do?

Essentially, it would change how we teach Science. The bill seeks to prohibit schools from teaching "science theory" and limits all Science education in K-12 schools to "science fact.". Science fact is defined as anything that is observable and repeatable. If it does not meet those two criteria then it is considered science theory and **can't be** taught in K12 schools.

#### What does this mean?

Taken to the extreme, a vast majority of what we teach in Science is based on theory. (For example, depending on where you are, you would never be able to "observe" that the earth was round. Your observations would tell you that the earth is flat. This is an extreme example, but you get the idea.)

#### How do we oppose it?

The opposition to this bill is fairly straight forward. The MT constitution reserves these types of curriculum decisions to the Board of Public Ed (Article X, Section 9) and to the locally elected board of trustees (Article X, Section 8). The state legislature should not be making decisions that impact what is taught in school. Those types of decisions are constitutionally protected decisions for the Board of Public Ed and the local School Board. Also see [MCA 20-3-324](#) and [MCA 20-4-301](#), both of which clearly define the local board's role in developing the educational program and course of study.

You can also argue that teaching theory is really all about helping students increase their critical thinking skills. This is a skill that most would expect from our K-12 system, if our ultimate goal is to develop an educated populace who can think for themselves.

#### How do we send a message?

There are a couple of ways to reach the Senate Ed Committee. If you know someone on the committee, I would encourage you to reach out to them directly. If you want to send a message to the whole committee, I would encourage you to use the messaging system linked [HERE](#). This system allows you to send a short message (less than 1250 characters) to the entire committee at once. Below is a list of committee members. Be sure to identify your school and position in the body of the message.

DON'T Forget about the SAM LN23 Monday zoom at Noon! SAM Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3923446729>

<b>Member</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
<a href="#">Daniel R Salomon</a> (R) SD 47	Chair
<a href="#">Edith (Edie) McClafferty</a> (D) SD 38	Vice Chair
<a href="#">Russel (Russ) Tempel</a> (R) SD 14	Vice Chair
<a href="#">Daniel Emrich</a> (R) SD 11	Member
<a href="#">Steve Fitzpatrick</a> (R) SD 10	Member
<a href="#">John Fuller</a> (R) SD 4	Member
<a href="#">Greg Hertz</a> (R) SD 6	Member
<a href="#">Shannon O'Brien</a> (D) SD 46	Member
<a href="#">Andrea Olsen</a> (D) SD 50	Member

<a href="#">Keith Regier (R) SD 3</a>	Member
<a href="#">Susan Webber (D) SD 8</a>	Member
<a href="#">Padraic McCracken</a>	Legislative Branch Staffer
<a href="#">Lynnette Sena</a>	Secretary

School Administrators of Montana • [900 N. Montana Ave., Suite A-4](#), Helena, Montana 59601, United States • 406-442-2510

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## 2 attachments



**SAM All Tracked Bills, Feb 6.xlsm**

20K



**SAM Upcoming with Notes, Feb 6-13.pdf**

57K