

Attachment 6

Testimony for S1147 3-13-2017

Senate bill 1147 is an important bill.

This bill will begin to cure the long standing problem of credit transferring between colleges and universities in Idaho. Although all of Idaho's public and non-profit colleges and universities are accredited by the same regionally recognized accrediting agency, which is the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, credit transfers from one institution to another have always been a problem. This is due not only to the perceived lack of quality or educational value of the course, but is partially the propriety interest of our several institutions and the professorial establishment which commonly will reject the transfer of credits and coursework citing differences only apparent in the novelty of the subject. S1147 will curtail this activity by requiring the rejecting institution to provide an acceptable reason for the rejection of credits and coursework. I ask you, isn't it in the best interest of higher education that some type of uniformity exists within basic college level units so that a student moving from a junior college to a four year school will be able to continue toward their degrees without having to retake a class that has been rejected for transfer?

It is time to move beyond the tenured propriety of an institution and educate our students. It was the mind set of universities in the 1950's that college was to prepare the student for society not an occupation and for a university or college to be accredited it must offer a degree in liberal arts. That is not the case today.

By requiring credit transfer this bill will ensure that classes and course work offered and taught by the two and four year public and non-profit colleges and universities will contain high quality valuable material of an educational standard that will be acceptable by any institution of higher learning.

It will also cause the inclusion and structure of classes and coursework within the two year institutions to be of a level acceptable to the four year postsecondary institutions, not only within Idaho, but within any of the colleges or universities accredited by the five regionally recognized accrediting agencies throughout the U.S.

What this bill addresses has always been a problem. I am quite sure that most of this committee have either had a personal experience, like I myself have, with this problem or know of a family member or acquaintance that has had a problem with credit transfers.

This bill is economically important to Idaho and to Idaho citizens to ensure educational institutions operating within Idaho are deemed credible and the degrees they issue are marketable.

I urge you to pass this legislation. It is important to you, your families and to the economy of Idaho. This bill is a good step in bringing reliable education into the inevitable electronic age where quality credible education will become available electronically throughout the lives of our future citizens.

I'll leave you with this thought. The cheapest most profitable thing a society can do is to fully educate its population.

Ronald M. Harriman Chairman of the Tax Accountability Committee of Idaho

The Tax Accountability Committee, (aka "TAC") is an Idaho unincorporated non-profit association established pursuant to Chapter 27 of Title 30 of the Idaho Code and organized for the purpose of fostering and promoting the responsible, constitutional, and conservative use of the taxing power by local, state, and national government, and in support of this purpose to engage in study and education, and promote, propose, and challenge the verity of legislation and public policies to these purposes in all venues, including schools, news media, local and state government, administrative agencies, the legislature, and courts of law.