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Attachment 5

Blake Youde...Idaho Charter School Network...H293.

Here on behalf of our member schools and partners with some disappointment. For the past three years, we have worked to do something innovative...develop an enrollment-based funding formula that directs additional resources towards the students that need it most. We were working towards a monumental improvement in how we direct resources to students.

We have a 25-year-old funding formula. It is widely recognized that it needs to be updated to meet the needs of students. Three years ago, we formed an interim committee to tackle this with an Idaho solution. That's a luxury. Several states have their public school funding formulas rewritten under a court order. Look at the State of Washington.

H293 is a product of our three years of work. It sounds odd to say that, but it is true. Previous efforts this session were detailed not because of issues around (egos)student weights, but around issues like renewable contracts, financial emergencies, and whether payments should be made on averages or actual

enrollments. Arguably, we took our eye off the ball.

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What was consistently heard in all of this was that the data used to make funding models was incorrect. There was concern about accuracy and its impact. I said in testimony that ICSN was concerned and used the phrase "Garbage in, no money out". The legislature has heard this and drafted H293 to collect a baseline amount of data to help inform decision making when a new draft of an enrollment-based funding formula is developed. This bill starts data driven decision making. That's a good thing.

At my house, my wife and I debate how laundry and dishes should be done. I usually take the side of "It doesn't matter how you get there. Just get it done." Idaho charter schools have long advocated for flexibility if it yields results. Enrollment-based funding with additional resources for students who need it most is a step in that direction. We started this three-years-ago. In the end, it doesn't matter how we get there, as long as we help our students succeed. H293 is intended to get us there - to get resources to students. We will support