

Good afternoon, I am Robin Nettinga, Executive Director of the Idaho Education Association. I appreciate this opportunity to testify on behalf of the members of the IEA regarding SCR105.

The IEA is a strong supporter of the Idaho Core Standards. While we have raised questions in the past about the roll out of the standards, the lack of professional development and materials and the length of and potential high stakes nature of the test used to measure student growth toward achievement of the standards, we have always supported the standards themselves.

We know that the Common Core Standards—the standards upon which the Idaho Core Standards are drawn—were drafted by experts and teachers from across the country and are designed to ensure students are prepared for today’s entry-level careers, freshman-level college courses, and workforce training programs.

For years prior to the adoption of these new standards, teaching and learning focused on rote memorization of facts and scripted curriculum. The attractiveness of the Idaho Core standards is their focus on the development of critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills students need to be successful in their careers.

We have several concerns about SCR 105. First, this is the first time that our organization is aware of the legislature stepping in and directing the review of specific standards. The State Department of Education has a timeline for reviewing standards and to our knowledge, they have followed that timeline. We are unclear why this SCR is necessary.

Second, we have a concern that the language used in this SCR cause one to make an assumption that there is something wrong with the standards or that they are not acceptable. Further, there are statements in the legislation that we believe confuse the standards with curriculum and teaching strategies.

We would respectfully ask that you hold SCR 105 in committee..

Thank you.