



March 2, 2015

Senate Education Committee

SCR-105

Committee Testimony by Ray Stark, Boise Metro Chamber

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Ray Stark with the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce.

The Boise Metro Chamber believes the Idaho Core Standards are an elevated set of standards that focus on the building blocks of learning, such as reading and math. They are designed to be applicable in the real world—namely, college or career. It is not a curriculum. The Idaho Core Standards are the “what.” Curriculum is the “how.” That distinction is important to an organization like the Chamber of Commerce that values local control.

A key attribute of the Idaho Core Standards is nationwide clarity and consistency. For a country that is as mobile as we are today, for employers that in many cases have interests in multiple states, it’s critical that students—wherever they live— are ready to enter college or career training upon graduation. The Wing Commander at Mountain Home Air Force Base supports the concept of core standards. Hundreds of children of military members move in and out of several school districts near the air base. These children need to go to, and come from, states that have similar standards.

Another important piece for our members is that the Idaho Core Standards are on par with international standards. Core Standards raise our education standards, which will enable Idahoans to compete with global peers. Senator Buckner –Webb used to work at our Hewlett Packard operation in west Boise. Leadership at HP once told us that one half of the jobs at HP-Boise were dependent upon international sales or international trade. Our employees here in Boise have to be at such an educated level that they could research and develop new products to be competitive with other companies around the world.

The Chamber believes this resolution is several years too early. Please let the standards be in use for five (5) years before the rules are reviewed. Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

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