

## **TESTIMONY ON HB122**

### **CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLANS**

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and member of the Committee. For the record, I'm Karen Echeverria, Executive Director of the Idaho School Boards Association. I'm here today to stand in support of HB122.

The original legislation was part of the Governor's Task Force recommendations and included recommendations that school board members receive continuous professional development and that school districts post their strategic plans online.

Last year we were pleased that the legislature passed this legislation and appropriated \$2000 per school district for board members professional development. One of the concerns we had with the original legislation was that the strategic plans needed to be posted by August 1. However, school districts don't receive their testing results until the end of July which made it very difficult to incorporate those results into that plan. As such, we are pleased with this date change to October 1. This date will allow school districts to use the most current data when completing their continuous improvement plans.

I also wanted to give you a brief update on the training that ISBA has completed in terms of this legislation. President Wells will also speak to this when he does his presentation later this afternoon.

As a reminder, the legislation allows for training in five areas – Governance, Ethics, Superintendent Evaluations, School Finance, and Strategic Planning. The State Board of Education was granted rulemaking authority to implement this statute.

Under the current state board rule, in order to provide training to school districts, trainers need to meet specific qualifications. There are currently eight companies and individual trainers that have been identified as qualified to trainers. ISBA is the only entity that currently qualifies to train in all five areas.

At the beginning of the fiscal year, we created several packages of training and workshops that would meet the requirements of the law. As of today we have either provided or scheduled training in 81 school districts and charter schools. That is a little over 50% of all school districts. We know that several other school districts have utilized the services of some of the other trainers that are on the qualified trainer list.

In addition, and what is even more impressive to us, is that the school districts who received training from ISBA and utilized the \$2000 reimbursement also continued to receive additional training. We look forward to this continued success with our school districts and charter schools.

We urge this committee to send HB122 to the floor with a due pass recommendation. With that Mr. Chair, I am glad to stand for any questions and I also have ISBA's Training Coordinator, Krissy LaMont, here to answer any questions that are specific to training.