

## **Testimony on HB169 – Evergreen Clause**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for the record, I am Karen Echeverria and I am here today on behalf of the Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) membership. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present HB169 regarding one year master agreements, also known as the removal of evergreen clauses.

First, I want to note that the bill before you is the language that would lift the sunset clause that has been in place for two years on the legislation that was originally found in SB1147 from the 2013 legislative session. As we did at the Print Hearing, we have provided that original bill in your packets so you can see the actual language.

As a reminder, the legislation requires that salaries and benefits in a master agreement can only be in effect for one year beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30. All other non-financial matters may have a length of two years. The legislation has a sunset clause that will expire July 1, 2015. Should HB169 pass, the sunset clause will be removed and the legislation will become permanent law.

I want to be clear that we are NOT talking about teacher's individual annual contracts. Teacher contracts and the master

agreement are not the same thing. Teacher contracts are the individual one page contracts that teachers sign each year that commits the school district or charter school and the individual teacher to employment for the next year. The master agreement is the agreement that is negotiated between the local union and the local board and includes all items that were negotiated.

In order for school boards to be able to set their annual budgets in a timely manner and in order to set a budget based on the funding that will be available for the upcoming fiscal year, ISBA's members believe strongly that master agreements cannot be open ended and must have a term length.

In addition, the members of ISBA do not believe that today's boards should be bound by terms that were negotiated years, sometimes even decades, ago. The same would be true for future boards not being bound by terms that are negotiated today.

As we have our other labor bill legislation, we have discussed this bill with the Idaho Education Association and they will remain.

With that Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I would ask that you send HB169 to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

I would be glad to stand for any questions.