

HB126 – SUPPORT UNIT CALCULATION

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 the opportunity to testify on HB126.

ISBA certainly understands the issues that occur when students move from one school district or charter school to the next – whether that movement occurs in the middle of the year or when school districts or charter schools discover it at the beginning of the school year. It makes it incredibly difficult for school districts or charter schools to budget.

Protecting schools from the movement of students was the purpose of the 99% protection clause that this body removed several years ago. HB126 attempts to correct the same problem only in the mid-year.

The Governor's Education Task Force recognized that issue and, as such, included a recommendation that we look at the school funding formula so that it more accurately reflects how school districts are funded. That Committee, led by Tom Taggart, Executive Director of the Idaho School Business Officials and Business Manager at the Lakeland school district chairs that committee. That committee is still working on a solution and they hope to bring a recommendation back to the legislature

next year. My conversations with Mr. Taggart indicate that they will be addressing this issue.

While this legislation will be helpful to several districts and charter schools, it will not be beneficial to all. As such, ISBA is not able to support this legislation.

With that Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I would ask that you hold HB126 in committee and allow the committee to finish their work and bring back legislation that will provide for a different or new funding formula rather than try to piecemeal it together.

I would be glad to stand for any questions.