

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 12, 2015

**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman VanOrden, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Mendive, McDonald, Dixon, Kerby, Pence, Kloc, Rubel

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Briana LeClaire, Idaho Federation of Independent Schools; Misty Maxfield; Krysten Counts; Robin Nettinga, IEA; Emily McClure, Waterford Institute; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News

**Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m..

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2015, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 23561C1:** **Rep. Boyle** presented **RS 23561C1**. She stated the proposed legislation would create the At Home School Readiness Pilot Program. The program would provide select families with an online at home reading and math program. Parents would facilitate their child's participation during the year immediately preceding kindergarten.

**Rep. Wills** pointed out a correction to the Fiscal Note on the Statement of Purpose. The correction: In line 2, change the word "appropriate" to "appropriated". **Rep. Boyle** agreed to the change.

**Emily McClure**, Waterford Institute spoke in support of the At Home School Readiness Pilot Program. She said the program would be aimed at areas of the state where children score the lowest on the Idaho Reading Indicator at the kindergarten level, to try to give them a boost and arrive at kindergarten ready to move forward. In answer to questions she stated there are foundations interested in helping with funding for the program but they want the state to "put skin in the game".

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wills** made a motion to introduce **RS 23561C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Briana LeClaire**, Executive Director of the Idaho Federation of Independent Schools, represents private schools from all over the state. She presented a school choice survey and a survey of Idaho's private schools, adding the state doesn't collect information regarding tuition costs and the financial assistance private schools give to students. She said Idaho students deserve the right to choose the type of education that best suits their needs, either private or public.

**Misty Maxfield** and her daughter, **Krysten Counts**, spoke in support of school choice. Krysten is a student at Cole Valley Christian School and is a scholarship recipient. **Brad Carr**, Superintendent, Cole Valley Christian stated Cole Valley has been operating for 43 years. He said 97% to 98% of students go on to college.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Joyce McKenzie  
Secretary