

~~Madame~~
Chairwoman Mortimer

Attachment 6 - H 302

March 24, 2015

Dem, member educ committee thy you
for letting me speak

Speaker:

Lorna Finman, CEO of LCF Enterprises a high tech engineering and manufacturing firm, Post Falls, Idaho

NEED: Representing Microm, INL, HP today

STEM fields are at the core of everything we do; mining, lumber, paper, agriculture, medicine, finance, technology, architecture, auto mechanics, and ~~yes even the artist who uses their laptop and the custom paints they use, and the acoustically designed room for the musician.~~ STEM is the key to the economic well being of a state and country.

US News
70K
600K
Being 50K

Its also in the STEM fields where the need is most urgent - its where the growth and opportunities are -yet we have a significantly widening gap. In 1978, 40% of the worlds scientists and engineers resided in the US - today that number is 15%.

More than half of the STEM graduates working in America today are from other countries. We are not raising our own students to be able to take these jobs and boost our economy. Businesses do what they have to do to be competitive and if that means expanding the Visa program they will do that, but the tragedy of this direction is that we do not engage and develop our own youth to take these jobs. We need to grow our own.

IDAHO VISION - Prosperity and Capability

What is Idaho's Vision for the future - economic prosperity through good paying jobs and opportunities for families which means we need to attract and retain businesses.

For this vision, we should be producing 30,000 STEM workers not 300 per year.

The need for greater emphasis on STEM education and careers in Idaho is clear.



We must move from pockets of excellence to a system of excellence

HB302

The bill addresses the implications for future workforce readiness and the talent shortage affecting Idaho businesses. It will help align Idaho's educational outcomes with workforce needs and place awareness on STEM. It will be a resource where industry and education come together to form new strategies around efforts to produce the workforce of the future. Its a center with strong collaboration within the state and outside the state to establish best practices. With Industry collaboration we can leverage state dollars.

We are years behind other states and being outperformed internationally - we must not let another generation go by.

Knowing our kids can't wait, I invested in them by starting Discover Technology, a high tech non-profit that engages 30,000 kids per year with on campus events to engage them in STEM. What I found over the course of our exponential growth is that every child has the aptitude for success in STEM. They are hungry for it. When our bus arrives at a school, they cheer. They scream and cheer throughout our assembly.

Stem Charter

f bus

Six years ago, we met a young man who by all judgement was going nowhere in life-- his parents were on drugs, he was kicked out of his house, flunking out of school, living in a tent. We engaged him through an after school robotics program where he found something in himself.... we ultimately took him to a robotics competition where he beat my husband's alma mater, MIT. He then went off to college. There are many stories like this, where given a chance to engage kids with STEM, they succeed.

This bill is about a system of collaboration throughout our state between business, government, and education. A partnership for a

stronger workforce in Idaho. It gives businesses in our state a reason to stay here and grow, and it gives businesses outside of our state a reason to consider moving here. It shows we all just got very serious about our workforce. The country WILL notice us take this big leap.

We are more than a beautiful place to live. We can do this together. Idaho can't wait. Our kids can't wait. Thank you for considering this bill today.