

2006-08 3rd Budget cut
2002-04 - ended college

Attachment 2

MR. CHAIRMAN, I'M ROD GRAMER, PRESIDENT OF IDAHO BUSINESS FOR EDUCATION. I AM HERE TODAY TO SPEAK IN FAVOR OF SENTATE BILL 1303.

KNOWING THAT THIS BILL ~~PROBABLY~~ WON'T GET ~~MUCH~~ FARTHER THAN TODAY'S HEARING, I APPRECIATE THE CHANCE TO REITERATE HOW IMPORTANT THIS EXECUTIVE IS TO THE STATE ACHIEVING ITS 60 PERCENT GOAL.

THAT'S THE GOAL THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THIS LEGISLATURE ESTABLISHED TO BUILD THE EDUCATED AND TRAINED WORKFOCE OUR EMPLOYERS NEED TO SUPPORT IDAHO'S ECONOMY IN THE DECADES AHEAD. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE NEARLY A 20 PERCENT GAP IN ATTAINING THAT GOAL BY 2025.

THE GOVERNOR'S HIGHER EDUCATION TASK FORCE CAME UP WITH 12 IMPORTANT

RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND ACHIEVE THE 60
PERCENT GOAL.

THREE OF THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS DEALT WITH
SOLVING WHAT THE TASK FORCE CONSIDERED THE
TWO BIGGEST BARRIERS TO ACHIEVING THE 60
PERCENT GOAL - ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY.

TO THE TASK FORCE'S CREDIT, IT CAME UP WITH A
WAY TO ADDRESS THE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY
CHALLENGES WITHOUT COMING TO THE
LEGISLATURE AND ASKING FOR MILLIONS OF NEW
DOLLARS TO DO SO.

THE TASK FORCE PROPOSED CONSOLIDATING BACK-
OFFICE OPERATIONS AT THE FOUR-YEAR
INSTITUTIONS. THESE ARE OPERATIONS LIKE
HUMAN RESOURCES, IT, FINANCE, SOFTWARE
LICENSING – ALL OPERATIONS THAT ARE NOT

DIRECTLY TIED TO STUDENT LEARNING OR RESEARCH.

THE TASK FORCE SAID THE SAVING REALIZED BY THESE CONSOLIDATIONS COULD THEN BE REINVESTED IN CREATING A DIGITAL CAMPUS THAT COULD TAKE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION TO EVERY CORNER OF IDAHO AND REACH THE STUDENTS WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO MOVE TO ONE OF OUR TRADITIONAL CAMPUSES.

SOME OF THE SAVINGS COULD ALSO BE INVESTED IN MORE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS OR HOLD DOWN TUITION, BOTH OF WHICH WOULD GIVE GREAT FINANCIAL RELIEF TO STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS.

THE LEGISLATURE IS NOW PLANNING TO INVEST \$250,000 TO STUDY WHETHER THE TASK FORCE'S SAVINGS CAN BE REALIZED. THE IBE EXECUTIVES

WHO SERVED ON THE TASK FORCE BELIEVE THE SAVINGS ARE THERE BASED ON THE EXPERIENCES OF OTHER STATES.

WHEN THAT STUDY IS COMPLETED LATER THIS YEAR AND WE CONFIRM THE SAVINGS, WE WILL NEED AN EXECUTIVE WHO HAS THE SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND KNOW-HOW TO EFFECTIVELY LEAD THIS COMPLEX CHANGE-MANAGEMENT EFFORT.

NONE OF US WOULD GO INTO THE OPERATING ROOM TO HAVE HEART SURGERY WITHOUT A TRAINED, EXPERIENCED AND SKILLFUL SURGEON CUTTING INTO US.

LIKEWISE, WE SHOULD NOT TACKLE THIS CHANGE-MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE WITHOUT A LEADER WHO HAS THE EXPERIENCE AND THE SKILLS TO

PERFORM EFFECTIVELY AND DO NO HARM TO OUR HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM.

IN CLOSING, YOU MAY NOT WANT TO APPROVE THIS BILL TODAY. BUT NEXT YEAR, AFTER THE STUDY SHOWS THAT THE SAVINGS ARE REAL, WE WILL ASK YOU TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF THIS SKILLFUL EXECUTIVE OR WE WILL MISS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP MORE OF IDAHO'S STUDENTS OBTAIN A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL SO THAT THEY CAN BECOME EMPLOYABLE AND PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS OF OUR STATE.

OUR STUDENTS WILL BE DEPENDING ON YOU, OUR EMPLOYERS WILL BE DEPENDING ON YOU, OUR CITIZENS WILL BE DEPENDING ON YOU AND THE FUTURE OF IDAHO'S ECONOMY WILL BE DEPENDING UPON YOU TO DO THIS.

THANK YOU.