Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Mike Keckler and I am the chief communications and legislative affairs officer for the State Board of Education.

The State Board opposes HB 566.

HB 566 circumvents the current administrator certification requirements (IDAPA 08.02.02). These certification requirements are based on competencies identified in the Idaho Foundation Standards for School Administrators and align with national best practices.

These standards focus on competencies in establishing school climate, collaborative and instructional leadership. While the jobs of school leaders have become more complex over the years, the primary focus of the standards is to identify those competencies that are most critical for effective leadership in today’s educational environment.

Various national reports have identified the quality of leadership as one of the key factors driving transformation and school improvement.

Minimum standards for educator qualifications are set by the Board to establish a minimum level of uniformity for Idaho’s public education system and to provide for a thorough system of public education.

Again, the State Board of Education opposes HB 566 and Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I'd be glad to stand for questions.

Alternative certification Routes are in place