

Mister Chairman and committee members,

My name is Quinn Perry, I am the Policy and Government Affairs Director for the Idaho School Boards Association. ISBA represents over 900 board members who volunteer their time serving their local school districts and charter schools. We represent 100% of the 115 traditional school districts, as well as about 43 charter schools. Before I get started, I'd like to introduce a few of my colleagues who will become familiar faces in your committee. First – Karen Echeverria, who many of you know and has been working in the Education arena for over 20 years. Next is Misty Swanson, who is ISBA's Chief Deputy and has worked in education for over 12 years. **Anyone else attending?** ISBA's mission is to provide leadership and development to board members in all aspects of board service and through a lens of educational equity. Part of that mission is through advocacy efforts.

Our advocacy efforts are determined by and from our members through our Resolution process, which I'd like to briefly explain to new members on this committee. School districts or charter schools will pass resolutions through their boards will come before the ISBA membership, and are voted on in formal parliamentary procedure at our annual convention in November, and resolutions that pass will become a part of our association's legislative platform for up to two years. To the surprise of nobody, our top priority this year will be changes to the Public School Funding Formula, and we will work to ensure that there is an equitable and intentional allocation of resources, instruction and opportunities for districts and charter schools. In addition, and for many years, our Association has taken a firm stance in standing up for Idaho's *public* schools and will continue to educate members of the legislature the risks of diverting public dollars to private or parochial schools. This year, Board members also passed two resolutions related to boosting reading and literacy efforts in our young citizens by advocating for full funding for all-day kindergarten as well as asking for flexibility in using our existing state resources in order to help prepare four-year olds to read.

When we think of the achievement that our Association has witnessed in the last 24 months, what comes to mind first is that **leadership matters**. When a district or school actually learns and focuses on their continuous improvement plan, it *does* impact student achievement. It does so by making it the focal point of the district or school, and when boards are regularly discussing this in open, public meetings alongside their data, it becomes a priority to fix shortfalls. Our leadership development team has been working diligently in districts and charters across the state to help boards to have a firm understanding their data and demographics, and how to address areas of improvement.

I'd also like to take a moment to talk about physical growth. ISBA believes it's time for the state to take a deeper look at extreme hurdles surrounding our State's facility bond requirements, as school districts are tasked with meeting the unique demands of being

one of the fastest growing states in the country and must also ensure that our students are learning in buildings that are safe and secure.

Finally, if we could change anything about education policy it would be more flexibility with how our districts and schools spend dollars to support staff, and it's been a longstanding vision of the Association that decisions are best made at the local level with direct input from our communities. We are excited to be working as partners alongside all of the other stakeholders here today, and want to share on a personal level, that all of the stakeholders in this room work very well together and strive to be have transparent communication among one another. We're excited to work with all of you on Senate Education committee. I think that is all I have, Mr. Chairman and would be happy to stand for questions.