

THANK YOU CHAIRMAN CLOW, CHAIRMAN MORTIMER, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES. FOR THE RECORD MY NAME IS KARI OVERALL, AND I AM THE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE IDAHO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

WE APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE SOME OF OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR THE NEW FUNDING FORMULA. THE COMMITTEE IS PROPOSING MOVING TO A FOUNDATION FORMULA WHICH IS STUDENT-CENTERED AND ALLOCATES FUNDING BASED ON THE DEMOGRAPHIC MAKEUP OF THE SCHOOLS. THE INTERIM COMMITTEE CHARGES INCLUDED MEETING THIS GOAL.

IN OUR VIEW, THE PROPOSED LANGUAGE DOES NOT MEET THIS GOAL OF BEING STUDENT-CENTERED, TRANSPARENT, FLEXIBLE, ACCOUNTABLE, AND EQUITABLE.

FOR EXAMPLE, ON PAGE 11, THE COMMITTEE CREATED THE “SCHOOL DISTRICT MARKET VALUE WEIGHT” OR WEALTH ADJUSTMENT. THIS MEASUREMENT DIVIDES THE WEALTH OF A DISTRICT BY THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND THEN DIVIDES THAT NUMBER BY THE STATE AVERAGE. THIS VALUE WILL VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR AND BE UNPREDICTABLE FOR DISTRICTS TO RELY ON AS THE ECONOMY FLUCTUATES. THIS INCONSISTENCY WILL MAKE BUDGET PLANNING DIFFICULT. STUDENT-

CENTERED FUNDING WHICH FOLLOWS THE STUDENT SHOULD NOT BE DEPENDENT ON THE STATE AVERAGE OF THE WEALTH OF DISTRICTS.

THE DRAFTED LEGISLATION INCLUDED TOO FEW VOICES IN THE DRAFTING PROCESS. SINCE GOVERNOR OTTER'S K-12 TASK FORCE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION IN 2012, PUBLIC EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS ACROSS THE STATE HAVE ENGAGED IN SUBSTANTIVE AND MEANINGFUL POLICY DEVELOPMENT TOGETHER. THE KEY TO THE SUCCESS IN THAT PROCESS HAS BEEN INPUT FROM ALL STAKEHOLDER GROUPS IN EVERY PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT. THE DRAFT OF THE FUNDING FORMULA HAS DEVIATED FROM THIS PROVEN AND COLLABORATIVE METHOD. ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ELEMENTS OF THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE WAS THE CAREER LADDER. IT WAS THE RESULT OF COMPROMISES AMONG STAKEHOLDERS AND DEVELOPED THROUGH A THOUGHTFUL AND THOROUGH PROCESS. IT WAS NEGOTIATED IN GOOD FAITH BY ALL PARTIES AND INCLUDED A FIVE-YEAR FUNDING COMMITMENT FROM THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE. THAT CAREER LADDER IS NO LONGER RECOGNIZABLE IN THE LEGISLATIVE DRAFT.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION INTRODUCES POLICY MODIFICATIONS WHICH ARE NOT TRANSPARENT, FLEXIBLE, OR EASY TO UNDERSTAND. THE BIGGEST CRITICISM OF IDAHO'S CURRENT SYSTEM IS THE DIFFICULTY IN CALCULATING THE AMOUNT COMING TO DISTRICTS. ON PAGE 10 OF

THE CURRENT LEGISLATION WE SEE COMPLEX FORMULAS REQUIRED TO CALCULATE DIFFERING AMOUNTS DISTRICTS ARE ENTITLED TO DEPENDING ON SIZE AND UNWEIGHTED ENROLLMENT.

IN ADDITION, THE LEGISLATION DECREASES LOCAL CONTROL AND FLEXIBILITY FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS. ON PAGE 14 AND ELSEWHERE, THE LEGISLATION REQUIRES ALL DISTRICTS NOW INCLUDE A SALARY SCHEDULE WITH RESIDENCY AND PROFESSIONAL RUNGS. MANY DISTRICTS DO NOT CURRENTLY USE THE CAREER LADDER ALLOCATION MODEL FOR THEIR LOCAL SALARY SCHEDULE BUT INSTEAD CHOOSE TO CREATE THEIR OWN. MANDATING A STATEWIDE SALARY SCHEDULE FAILS TO MEET THE FLEXIBILITY STANDARD. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE MINIMUM AMOUNTS REQUIRED FOR THE SALARY SCHEDULE, BUT THE EXCLUSION OF A FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR HOW THOSE AMOUNTS INCREASE.

THERE ARE A COUPLE OTHER AREAS WE FIND PERPLEXING. FOR EXAMPLE, ON PAGE 28, LINES 25-27 WE FIND THE REMOVAL OF LANGUAGE THAT WAS ADDED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAREER LADDER IN GOOD FAITH BY THE IEA AND LAWMAKERS. THE REMOVAL OF THIS LANGUAGE KEEPS ACCOUNTABILITY PROVISIONS IN PLACE WITHOUT THE COMMITMENT BY THE STATE TO FUND THE INCREASED ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS. CONTINUING ON PAGE 28, LINES 42-44 LANGUAGE IS

REMOVED WHICH REQUIRES TEACHER CONTRACTS TO BE UNIFORMLY APPLIED TO ALL EMPLOYEES. THE REMOVAL OF THIS LANGUAGE IS UNNECESSARY TO MEET THE CHARGES OF THE COMMITTEE TO CREATE A FORMULA WHICH IS TRANSPARENT AND STUDENT-CENTERED. INSTEAD IT WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR DISTRICTS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN QUALITY EDUCATORS. THERE ARE OTHER AREAS THROUGHOUT THE LEGISLATION WHICH ARE A DEPARTURE FROM PAST COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AND IN FACT MOVE US IN THE WRONG DIRECTION AS A STATE AND UNDO MUCH OF THE GOOD WORK ACCOMPLISHED IN THE LAST 5 YEARS.

WE BELIEVE A FUNDING FORMULA CAN BE DESIGNED WHICH MEETS THE ORIGINAL CHARGES OF THE FUNDING FORMULA INTERIM COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, A FALSE SENSE OF URGENCY HAS BEEN CREATED THAT POINTS TO A NEED TO GET IT DONE THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION. THERE IS NO MANDATED TIME FRAME ATTACHED TO CHANGING IDAHO'S PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA.

WE URGE YOU TO START WITH THE SHIFT FROM AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE TO ENROLLMENT FUNDING. THAT POLICY CHANGE CAN BE APPROVED THIS YEAR AND MEETS GOAL 2 OF THE COMMITTEE CHARGES. ALLOW GOVERNOR LITTLE'S NEW TASK FORCE TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY ON THIS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER AND THE

MONTHS TO COME AND TAKE THE TIME TO GET THE REMAINDER OF THE FORMULA CORRECT. IT IS BETTER TO TAKE THE TIME AND GET THIS RIGHT THE FIRST TIME RATHER THEN SPEND COUNTLESS YEARS PASSING CLEAN-UP LEGISLATION AND RULES TO CLARIFY INTENT.

WE ARE CONFIDENT BY FOLLOWING THE PROVEN, COLLABORATIVE MODEL WITH ALL STAKEHOLDER VOICES AROUND THE TABLE AND IN THE ROOM, A FUNDING FORMULA MODEL CAN BE CREATED WHICH MEETS THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF THE CHARGES AND BENEFITS THE STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IDAHO.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORUNITY TO SHARE OUR CONCERNS WITH YOU TODAY.