

FOR THE RECORD, MY NAME IS KARI OVERALL AND I AM THE PRESIDENT OF THE IDAHO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION. I AM HERE TODAY ON BEHALF OF THE IDAHO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ACROSS THE STATE TO TESTIFY ON SB 1060.

THE IDAHO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE EXPANSION OF GRADUATION AND PROMOTION OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS AND THE CREATION OF PARTNERSHIPS WITH COLLEGES, ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS, AND VOCATIONAL, CAREER, AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS. WE ALSO BELIEVE STATES AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHOULD EMPLOY MULTIPLE OPTIONS IN DETERMINING GRADUATION AND PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS. (TAKEN FROM RESOLUTION A 5.7)

IN ADDITION, THE IDAHO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT OF A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION FOR ALL AND WE BELIEVE EVERY STUDENT SHOULD EARN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR ITS EQUIVALENT. WE ALSO BELIEVE IN THE VALUE OF ACADEMIC PREPARATION, SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, AND SOCIAL INTERACTION FOR MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT IN SOME INSTANCES THE USE OF HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TESTS IS ACCEPTABLE WHEN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE STUDENTS ARE SERVED. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT ANY STATE OR DISTRICT PLAN TO USE EQUIVALENCY TESTING AS THE BASIS FOR QUALIFICATION FOR A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA SHOULD BE DEVELOPED COOPERATIVELY BY CLASSROOM TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND GOVERNING BOARDS. THE PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LOCAL SCHOOL FACULTY. RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE BASED, AS A MINIMUM, UPON ACHIEVEMENT RECORD, ABILITY, AND AGE AND SHOULD BE DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE FOR THE STUDENT, NOT SIMPLY BASED ON ONE TEST SCORE.

THE IEA IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE FOCUS ON THE TEST RESULT AS THE SOLE MEASURE OF STUDENT READINESS FOR COLLEGE. THE IEA OPPOSES THE USE OF STANDARDIZED TESTS WHEN THEY ARE USED AS THE SOLE CRITERIA USED FOR HIGH-STAKES DECISION MAKING. DECISIONS MADE ABOUT STUDENT

PLACEMENT AND GRADUATION SHOULD BE MADE WITH EDUCATORS AND BASED ON MULTIPLE FACTORS NOT A SINGLE ASSESSMENT ON ONE DAY.

THE IEA BELIEVES THIS PROPOSAL IS A GOOD START BUT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE A BETTER BILL IF MORE FULLY DEVELOPED. ANY PLAN FOR HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE FLEXIBILITY SHOULD INCLUDE EDUCATOR INPUT ON INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PERFORMANCE, MULTIPLE MEASURERS OF PERFORMANCE WITH DECREASED EMPHASIS ON ONE TEST, AND OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO STRUGGLE WITH STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS.

ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE IDAHO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, I ASK YOU TO CONSIDER OUR CONCERNS ABOUT SB 1060.

THANK YOU AND I WILL STAND FOR QUESTIONS.