

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 31, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Yamamoto, Vice Chairman McCann, Representatives Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chair Yamamoto called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

MOTION: **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 25, 2023. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 24: **Rep. Blanksma**, presented **H 24**, and said Workforce Development amends and adds to existing law to establish the Idaho Launch Grant Program to revise provisions regarding the In-Demand Careers Fund. She said this is a grant program and not scholarship program. She said current workforce training focuses on adults and explained this program is for secondary schools and uses aptitude testing to discover student interests. Rep. Blanksma said **H 24** is a job driven program, not degree driven. She explained how this program meets changing educational needs.

In response to Committee questions, **Rep. Blanksma** said **H 24** allows opportunities to students who cannot afford College. She said by targeting and training for In-Demand Idaho jobs, the likelihood of students staying in Idaho after training completion is high.

Alex LaBeau, IACI, and **Adam Jones, BSU**, spoke in support of **H 24**, explaining how the investment will benefit Idaho.

Anna Miller, from the Idaho Freedom Foundation, and **Victoria Young**, of Caldwell, voiced their **opposition** to **H 24**, explaining that businesses should not get paid to train employees. They said money should be spent on improving existing school education.

Liz Hatter, Idaho State Dental Association, **Deni Haney**, Winco Foods, **Peyton Nunes**, Lineman College Nurses, **Joe Maloney**, and **Cally Roach**, voiced their support for **H 24**. They spoke about workforce shortages and high availability for more skilled jobs. They explained how **H 24** can help fill in-demand jobs.

Gordon Jones, President, CWI, and **Debbie Critchfield**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, explained how **H 24** would provide more opportunities for education that can benefit Idaho.

Reps. Price, Clow, Mendive, and Boyle voiced their **opposition** of **H 24** and questioned if giving money is really the solution or just taking responsibility from students. They expressed capacity concerns and possible solutions in high school and community college programs.

Reps. Lanting, Garner, Sauter and Nelsen spoke in **support** of **H 24**, stating the need for skilled employees in the workforce and how keeping money in the state is beneficial. They said **H 24** only provides partial funding for workforce training and students will need to earn the remainder.

Reps. Wisniewski, Ehardt, and Hawkins spoke in **opposition** to **H 24** and spoke about the proper role of government regarding K-12 education. They expressed concern over test results determining career paths and taking away financial obligations and growth that come from earning an education. They suggested holding Universities accountable for job placement.

Reps. Berch, Mathias, and Hill voiced their **support** for **H 24**, saying cost is the number one reason students do not continue education.

Chair Yamamoto and Vice Chair McCann spoke about working with Idaho students and **support** for **H 24**. They said workers build the economy and **H 24** provides opportunities to more students. They spoke about the constitution and the obligation to educate people. They said students should have a choice in workforce training.

MOTION: **Rep. Lanting** made a motion to send **H 24** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE and 7 NAY.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. McCann, Garner, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias, and Yamamoto.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Hawkins, and Price.** **Rep. Blanksma** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

Representative Yamamoto
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary