

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 13, 2023

TIME: 8:00 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:** Reps. Boyle and Mendive

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 8:00 am.

Michael Haney, Collaboration Lead, University of Idaho, **Hope Morrow and Robert Helton**, Idaho National Laboratory, spoke about cyber security. They said though there is an employee shortage, post secondary schools have to turn students away due to capacity limits.

Tony Kuphaldt, Schweitzer Engineering, spoke about Career Technical Education. They spoke about an open source curriculum and career placement.

Brian Whitlock, CEO, Idaho Hospital Association, and **Jackson Binder**, Student, ISU spoke about health care. They spoke about framework time lines, the nursing shortage and the growing interest in Physician Assistants.

RS 30548: **Rep. Petzke** presented **RS 30548**, proposed legislation which would allow Community Colleges to offer a limited number of bachelor's degrees. He said **RS 30548** would replace **H 217**. He spoke about the approval process and the enrollment workload adjustment formula. He said the State Board approves the proposed legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Nelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 30548**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 290: **Rep. Dixon (1)** presented **H 290**, legislation which would allow sectarian colleges to be a authorizer of public charter schools. He said public funds would not go through the authorized institutions, they are just providing over site. He said the Charter School Commission is over loaded and **H 290** would provide other avenues to allow for more charter schools in Idaho.

Rep. Garner spoke in opposition to **H 290**. He spoke about the current process to create charter schools and believes it is working well.

In response to questions, **Rep. Dixon (1)** spoke about the Idaho charter school standards and the financial stability of institutions seeking to be an authorizer.

In response to questions, **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, Idaho State Board of Education, spoke about accreditation organizations and programs. She said the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities is the current accreditation organization.

Karen Hansen testified in opposition to **H 290** and said this bill is constitutionally unsound. She spoke about the separation of church and state and the use of tax dollars.

Paul Stark, Director, Idaho Education Association, testified **in opposition** to **H 290**. He said he believes the definition for accreditation is too broad and vague.

Terry Ryan, Bluum, spoke **in support** of **H 290**. He spoke about other states which allow sectarian universities to be authorizers for charter schools. In response to questions, he spoke about the application, approval, and fee processes. He said the authorized institutes do not run the charter schools.

Rep. Mathias spoke **in opposition** to **H 290** and said not all nationally accredited authorizers are the same.

Rep. Clow spoke **in opposition** to **H 290**. He said he is concerned about changing the accreditation and who the authorizers are.

MOTION: **Rep. Garner** made a motion to **HOLD H 290** in committee indefinitely. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Hill, Ehardt, Hawkins, Wisniewski, and Price** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:19 am.

Representative Yamamoto
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary