

Senate Education Committee

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 - 2:00 P.M.

TESTIMONY ON: All Subjects

Written Testimony

Name (First & Last)	Subject	Manner Testifying	Representing Company/Organization	City	For / Against	Wish to Testify	District #
Kristi Hardy	H 684	W	self	Kuna	Against	N	23

Chairman and Committee members, my name is Kristi Hardy, I live in Kuna, District 23. I am representing myself and speaking in opposition to Bill 684 for several reasons.

First, I believe the fiscal note is inaccurate. Realistically, resources will have to be used in order to provide these counseling services in schools. In Kuna, you are not likely to find an available office or even a closet where you could set up a "secure, confidential, private" space that is required in this bill.

Then I think about how this would work logistically, the bill says "a school nurse or other appropriately trained school employee" will need to make sure consent forms are collected and that a schedule is maintained. In addition to that extra work, they will need to make sure the room is room ready for each appointment, set up a device, collect the child, make sure the parent is logged on, probably provide tech support, and if they are elementary age, likely need to peek in for supervision purposes. Then make sure the child goes back to class. I believe there is a cost associated with this bill.

Secondly, this bill interferes in private business. It is a 2 minute walk from Kuna High School to a counseling center that was constructed just a few years ago. Perhaps they chose that location because of its proximity to the high school. If this bill passes they are now at a disadvantage because they pay for a brick and mortar location and the telehealth provider does not. It provides an unfair advantage. In effect, public funds would be subsidizing telehealth counselors that don't have a physical location.

Finally, I worry about the parental permission requirement. Before registration takes place each school year, parents have a plethora of forms to sign. You cannot complete registration, until they are done. I am skeptical that this bill would make parental permission processes anything other than just blanket forms once a year and I think that is dangerous.

I don't think this is a good use of taxpayer funds. We need to keep our schools focused on their primary responsibilities and leave parenting responsibilities to parents.

Lance Hansen	H 595	V	Lewiston School District	Lewiston	For	Y	6
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The outcome based funding proposed by the Idaho Department of Education will be of great benefit to public schools. Thanks for

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Lance Hansen	<i>cont.</i>						6
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voting in favor of this bill.

Lex Godfrey	H 595	T	Career Technical Educators of Idaho	Rigby	For	Y	31
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This important piece of legislation is long overdue. HB 595 modernizes the funding formula with an Outcomes-Based component.

The current formula is funded based on inputs, this legislation shifts the focus outcome (return on investment). Passage would fund K-12 education based on improvement in math scores, increasing graduation rates, and producing graduates ready for college and careers. This is an incentive program based on positive results.

HB 595 creates the policy for Outcomes-Based Funding, \$40 million which is subject to appropriation. These funds must be used to implement evidence-based math instruction and courses that better prepare students for college and careers. Included is a process for later review of the allocation to measure its effectiveness.

The Career and Technical Educators of Idaho encourage you to send HB 595 to the full Senate with a "do pass" recommendation.

Jon Rehder	H 595	V	Cottonwood School District and other districts across the state	Cottonwood	For	Y	7
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HB 595 gives school districts across the state outcome-based focus on math instruction where numerous students lack the skills to become proficient. This bill allows districts to provide a plan to work through interventions with their students to demonstrate growth and achievement. I'm going to compare a school district to a business owner. A school district works with students (employees) to develop skills to achieve gains and performances (employee meeting a quarterly/yearly goal). Districts who make gains or reach certain goals should receive certain compensation (an employer giving their employee a quarterly/yearly bonus/raise). You are incentivizing your students (employees) to achieve gains for compensation. What we currently are doing (depending on the district) is working somewhat, but can it be better? Yes and in order to do this you want to allow people to gain the tools (financial backing) to achieve those goals. If you as a business owner, and expect your employee to do the same job for you over and over again and stay stagnant in their employment growth, are they truly vital to your business? There are legislators that think we haven't reached the goals that we need, but if we don't change what we are doing, how will we reach those goals? We need to try something different and I think this is the bill to take us in the right direction, just like literacy funds did especially post-Covid. I invite any and all legislators to our district to

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Jon Rehder	<i>cont.</i>						7

see firsthand what we are doing with our students. It is difficult to make decisions if you do not have eyes on the action that is happening behind the 4 walls of our buildings. Thank you