

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 16, 2025

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Pickett, Vice Chairman Hawkins, Representatives Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Harris, Marmon, Tanner(13), Mathias (Carlson), Church

**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.

**Chairman Pickett** called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Church** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 14, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 10:** **Rep. Hill** presented **H 10**, legislation regarding flags in public schools. He spoke about patriotism, unity, strength, and commitment to the future. He said this legislation would allow for any country and any state flag or banner to be displayed in the classroom. He addressed student comfort and the need to bring patriotism back into the classroom.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Hill** spoke about school property, on-line classrooms, and enforcement policy. He specified flags or banners which affiliate with a political party, race, sexual orientation, gender, or a political ideology should not be displayed on school property.

**Greg Wilson**, Chief of Staff, State Department of Education, spoke about current policy, recognition, and local level decisions.

**Cassie Horner, Mary Ruckh, and Liliانا Rauer** testified in **opposition to H 10**. They spoke about inclusion, diversity, human rights, and providing a safe harbor for students. They mentioned political belief, free expression, and human characteristics. Areas within school property were also mentioned.

**Edward Clark**, Idaho Family Policy Center, and **Daniel Murphy**, testified in **support of H 10**. They expressed responsibility as citizens to nurture young minds with truths and symbols. They spoke about how the American flag is a symbol which should bring us together as a nation. They touched on division and inclusion in schools.

**Rep. Hill** closed by speaking about the American flag and inclusion.

Committee members spoke about current policies, regulations, and distractions.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Marmon** made a motion to send **H 10** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Wisniewski** made a substitute motion to send **H 10** to General Orders. .

During discussion on the motions, committee members spoke about local control, current policy and law, and clarification of terms. They addressed distractions, inclusion and education in the classroom. They mentioned the Idaho Constitution, laws without penalty, legislative bills and resolutions. The expressed concern for possible problems if some country flags or banners were allowed to be displayed in the classroom.

**Rep. Marmon** called for the previous question and requested a roll call vote. **Chairman Pickett** ruled the call out of order.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE ON  
SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 5 AYE and 9 NAY. Voting in favor** of the substitute motion: **Reps. Wisniewski, Nelsen, Sauter, Carlson, and Church. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Pickett, Hawkins, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Garner, Harris, Marmon, and Tanner (13).**

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE ON  
ORIGINAL  
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Original motion carried by a vote of 12 AYE and 2 NAY. Voting in favor** of the original motion: **Reps. Pickett, Hawkins, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Harris, Marmon, Tanner(13). Voting in opposition** to the original motion: **Reps. Carlson and Church. Rep. Hill** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

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Representative Pickett  
Chair

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Amy Bengtzen  
Secretary