

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Randy Dewey and I'm the Director of Finance for the Nampa School District.

I'd like to thank you for allowing public input on the funding formula discussion. As you can probably imagine, anytime business managers hear about a change in funding, we tend to want to voice our opinion.

There are many different areas I would like to discuss today but I only have 3 minutes so I'm going to focus on a few areas that I believe need to be highlighted.

- As you are aware, 33-1002B, Special Programs Support, highlights areas in funding that are not included in the funding formula. Examples of this funding are:
 - Transportation
 - bond levy equalization
 - advanced opportunities
 - instructional education allocation
 - master teacher premiums
 - leadership premiums
 - technology.

The current version of the bill does not specify if these funds are included in the 7.5% maximum ceiling. If included, a District runs the risk of reaching the 7.5% max because they hired more teachers, have teachers that received the master teacher premium, had higher attendance, bought busses, or had more students use their advanced opportunity money. Therefore, increases in these areas would effectively reduce the funding a district would otherwise have earned in the funding formula. The current excel model has these funds included in the calculation. I ask that this column be removed entirely out of the model as they shouldn't influence the discussions on funding increases or hold harmless conversations.

- The bill does not create a funding base per student. The current calculation of the base per student is taking the total amount available to the formula divided by the total estimated enrollment in the State. If enrollment increases faster than the funded amount, the base allocation per student is reduced. In order for Districts to be able to adequately budget, we need to know what the base amount would be, similar to the operational base amount in the current formula. I ask that the State establish a base that is not influenced by the fluctuations of enrollment in the State.
- I'm deeply concerned that the excel model used right now is seriously flawed. It compares funding from 2017-18 to 2018-19 PLUS \$86 million which essentially pushes out the comparison to 2019-20. The hold harmless is calculated based on two years data when 33-1002A states the hold harmless is based on only 1 year prior. Many smaller districts, and I believe legislators, will see this gain and believe their district is better off with the proposed funding formula when in reality, they may actually receive less.

I respect the effort of all those that have worked on the this. Many have spent countless hours and many hours are still to come. That said, Senate Bill No. 1196 does not meet the needs of students as it is currently written. I respectfully ask that we please "pump the brakes" and not race to vote on this legislation. With more time, I know we can successfully create an updated funding formula that meets the needs of the all the students in the State.

Respectively Submitted

Randy Dewey

Director of Finance

Nampa School District.