

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY NAME IS  
ROD GRAMER, PRESIDENT AND  
CEO OF IDAHO BUSINESS FOR  
EDUCATION, A GROUP OF  
MORE THAN 200 BUSINESS  
LEADERS ACROSS THE STATE.

THANK YOU FOR THIS  
OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY ON  
SENATE BILL 1196.

IBE APPLAUDS ALL THE  
LEGISLATORS WHO HAVE  
WORKED SO HARD ON

DEVELOPING A NEW FUNDING  
FORMULA.

THAT SAID, IBE IS CONCERNED  
ABOUT THIS LEGISLATION FOR  
SEVERAL REASONS.

FIRST, THIS BILL GIVES  
MAXIMUM AUTONOMY TO  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR HOW  
THEY SPEND STATE FUNDS -  
WHILE AT THE SAME TIME  
PROVIDING MINIMUM  
ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HOW  
THAT MONEY IS SPENT.

SECOND, THIS LEGISLATION DOES NOT ENSURE THAT MONEY FOR READING INTERVENTION, CAREER AND ACADEMIC ADVISING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTUALLY REACHES THE STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS WHO NEED IT.

THIRD, THIS BILL WOULD PUT THE LEGISLATURE ON THE HOOK FOR INFUSING ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MILLION

DOLLARS A YEAR INTO THE PUBLIC-SCHOOL BUDGET JUST TO MAKE THIS LEGISLATION WORK. HISTORY SHOWS THAT WHEN THE ECONOMY SLOWS, WHICH IT INEVITABLY DOES, THIS KIND OF INVESTMENT COULD BE UNSUSTAINABLE.

FOURTH, THE TEACHER CAREER LADDER DOESN'T FIT INTO THE FORMULA. THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON IMPROVING EDUCATION RECOMMENDED

THAT THE LEGISLATURE CREATE BOTH A TEACHER CAREER LADDER AND AN ENROLLMENT-BASED FUNDING MECHANISM.

THE TASK FORCE NEVER INTENDED FOR THESE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE ROLLED INTO ONE LAW.

FIFTH, THIS LEGISLATION STILL INCLUDES A MECHANISM FOR A DISTRICT WEALTH ADJUSTMENT.

IF THE WEALTH ADJUSTMENT IS TRIGGERED AT SOME FUTURE DATE, IT WOULD HAVE THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE OF DISCOURAGING COMMUNITIES FROM GROWING ECONOMICALLY - LEST THEIR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT LOSES BADLY NEEDED FUNDING.

SIXTH, THIS BILL GIVES PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS A FINANCIAL INCENTIVE FOR

REMAINING SMALL, EVEN IN  
CITIES LIKE BOISE WHERE THEY  
VOLUNTARILY CAP THEIR  
ENROLLMENT - UNLIKE  
TRADITIONAL SMALL SCHOOLS  
IN PLACES LIKE MURTAUGH,  
THREE CREEK, HANSEN AND  
CAMBRIDGE THAT MUST TAKE  
ANY STUDENT WHO WANTS TO  
ENROLL.

SEVENTH, WE HAVE ALREADY  
BEEN TOLD THAT THIS  
LEGISLATION IS ALIGNED WITH

AN EFFORT TO DIVERT BADLY  
NEEDED REVENUE FROM OUR  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO HELP  
SUPPORT PRIVATE SCHOOLS –  
SOMETHING THIS COMMITTEE  
DID NOT APPROVE LAST YEAR.

*seventh*  
~~EIGHTH~~, THE GOVERNOR'S  
TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION  
RECOMMENDED UPDATING  
THE SCHOOL FUNDING  
FORMULA TO MAKE IT  
SIMPLIER. BUT THIS  
LEGISLATION MAKES IT



ANYTHING BUT SIMPLE. ALL THE DIALS, WEIGHTS, AND UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND AND TO IMPLEMENT.

MR CHAIRMAN, THIS LEGISLATION REPRESENTS THE BIGGEST CHANGE IN EDUCATION POLICY IN A GENERATION – PERHAPS IN THE HISTORY OF OUR STATE.

IT IS EVIDENT FROM TODAY'S  
TESTIMONY THAT THIS BILL  
ISN'T READY FOR PRIME TIME.  
IT HAS BEEN 24 YEARS SINCE  
WE UPDATED OUR SCHOOL  
FUNDING FORMULA

SURLY, WE COULD TAKE  
ANOTHER NINE MONTHS TO  
CRAFT A BETTER, SIMPLIER,  
FAIRER, MORE ACCOUNTABLE  
AND MORE FINANCIALLY  
SUSTAINABLE BILL.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman