



# West Ada

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

Attachment 2

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RE: House Concurrent Resolution No. 14

- **Transparency Concerns** - Did not have the opportunity to testify in the House Education Committee (HEC). HEC changed the agenda from the night before, moved the meeting time up by a half hour and made it the first item on the agenda.
- **Fiscal Impact** – Testimony from March 3 stated that the SBOE confirmed there would be no fiscal impact. However, there will be a fiscal impact to our district and to all districts. We will be responsible for creating (time cards), administering (bubble sheets and scanning), tracking and transcribing the test. As soon as something becomes a graduation requirement, it comes with a need for meticulous follow-through. All of this costs money. For example, Lines 31-32 indicate that districts will create their own questions. We have procedures in place that requires this work to be completed using a team of teacher representatives from each school.
  - West Ada has 10 high schools- Building true consensus takes time. Ten people for 1 day (8 hrs.) at a rate of \$23.50 per hour = \$1,880.00. That represents the cost to one district.
- **Philosophically Object to HCR No. 14** – Educational research indicates there must be an alignment between what is written (standards and curriculum), taught (pedagogy and instruction) and tested. There is no such connection with this test.
  - Idaho History is taught in 4<sup>th</sup> grade in this state. Many students transfer into our district between grades 4 and 12.
  - It is obvious that Representative Bateman has a deep love and respect for our amazing state, as do I. However, requiring a test with the hope of influencing instruction is not the way to do this. We have very specific systems and procedures in place for determining instruction in this state. This resolution bypasses that entire system.

- During the HEC meeting, Mr. Bateman told a beautiful story about how Territorial Governor Edward Stephens helped ensure Idaho become a state. This level of historical knowledge is not what is going to be on the test and will not become a sample of instruction. There just isn't time. We operate in a system that already requires more standards than time allows to teach.
- Our only opportunity to add questions that would *potentially* align with curriculum and instruction would be to take questions from our State and Local unit of our Government course. However, this is the last unit of instruction in our government class that is taught during a student's senior year. That is too late to administer a high-stakes graduation requirement test. Title 33-1602 does require, "successful completion of this test".
- This will not be a meaningful assessment. If this comes to fruition, we will create a set of 25 questions relating to Idaho History and/or Government. We will post them on our website along with their answers. We will direct our students to this page and notify them of the test date. The majority of our students will memorize the answers and will pass within the first round. The students that this test will impact the most will be our students with learning disabilities and with limited English proficiency. Thus incurring districts additional costs for time and remediation.
- **Request for Consideration** – For the reasons stated above the West Ada School District requests that the Senate Education Committee not approve House Concurrent Resolution No. 14.