

**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE EDUCATION
HB647 – CARD CHECK**

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. For the record, I am Quinn Perry, Policy & Government Affairs Director for the Idaho School Boards Association. I'm here today representing school districts and the over 500 school board members who govern them.

I'm here today in support of HB647.

Negotiations between the local Board of trustees and the local education association have been around for decades. Several years ago, the ISBA worked to have many of the negotiation statutes amended. The section that is being amended in this bill is one of those, and this bill makes one correction that we believe is needed.

I want to take a few minutes and explain how negotiations work at the local level. First, negotiations are not required and in some school districts no negotiations take place. In those instances, the local Board sets salaries and benefits for the upcoming year.

Secondly, no teacher is required to join the local education organization. However, even if they are not a member of the LEO, the teacher can decide to let the LEO represent them in negotiations. In most cases, the teacher will sign a card that allows the LEO to represent them. That card has no expiration date and is good until the teacher asks to no longer be represented by the LEO.

In order to begin negotiations, either the LEO or the Board of trustees may make the request to negotiate. Once that request is made, the Board of trustees **MAY** require the LEO to provide proof that they represent 50% + 1 of the teachers in the district but they don't have to. The current law is permissive in that regard and continues to be permissive in this bill. The Board can make that request annually.

That is where this legislation comes in. Because the Board already has the ability to ask for the representation, we believed that those signatures had to be current. However, not everyone reads the statute that way and we believe this bill clarifies that.

This legislation indicates that the evidence of representation of 50% + 1 must be provided at least once every two years. We believe that this will assure that the local LEO is truly representing the current teachers in the district.

We also want to be clear what this legislation does not do. It does not allow the local Board of Trustees to review the list or names of any teachers who have agreed to allow the local LEO to negotiate on their behalf. This is currently true and this legislation does not change that.

For these reasons, we would ask that you send HB647 to the floor with a due pass recommendation.

Thank you Mister Chairman and members of the committee. I appreciate your time today and I would be glad to stand for any questions.