

THANK YOU CHAIRMAN MORTIMER AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. MY NAME IS MATT COMPTON AND I AM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY FOR THE IDAHO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SPONSORS OF THE BILL FOR REACHING OUT TO OUR ASSOCIATION AND PROVIDING ASSURANCES THAT ADDRESS OUR CONCERNS WHEN THIS BILL WAS ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED IN THE BODY ACROSS THE ROTUNDA.

THE IEA BELIEVES THAT MOVING TO A MORE EQUITABLE PER-PUPIL FUNDING FORMULA WILL ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ACROSS THE STATE, WHETHER IT BE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS, AT-RISK STUDENTS, OR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. WITH ADEQUATE AND STABLE FUNDING, A STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING FORMULA HAS THE POTENTIAL TO FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE THE WAY WE EDUCATE STUDENTS IN OUR STATE.

OUR ORIGINAL CONCERNS WITH HOUSE BILL 293 CENTERED, FUNDAMENTALLY, AROUND THE IDEA THAT LOCAL DISTRICTS AND BARGAINING TEAMS NEED TO HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY TO BUILD LOCAL SALARY SCHEDULES THAT FIT THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS ACROSS IDAHO. SPECIFICALLY, NOW THAT BARGAINING HAS ALREADY STARTED IN MANY DISTRICTS, IT WOULD CAUSE MAJOR DISRUPTIONS IF BOTH SIDES NEEDED TO RETURN TO THE DRAWING BOARD AND DESIGN A TOTALLY NEW LOCAL SALARY SCHEDULE.

AFTER SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH MANY OF YOU ON THIS COMMITTEE, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT YOUR INTENTIONS ARE TO COLLECT DATA ON HOW MUCH DISTRICTS ARE PAYING TEACHERS AT THE P1 RUNG OF THEIR LOCAL SCHEDULES TO BETTER INFORM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND ASSIST IN

DISTRIBUTING SALARY ALLOCATIONS WHEN A NEW FUNDING FORMULA IS UNVEILED. THE IEA IS COMMITTEED TO WORKING WITH ISBA AND MANY OF YOU ON THIS COMMITTEE TO DRAFT A LETTER BOTH SIDES OF THE BARGAINING TABLE CAN USE TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT INTERRUPTION THIS YEAR. WE FEEL THAT STEP WILL ADAQUATLY SATISFY OUR CONCERNS AND WE CAN POSITIVELY SUPPORT HB 293.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS YOUR COMMITTEE MR. CHAIRMAN, I WILL STAND FOR QUESTIONS.