

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, For the record, I am Nancy Gregory, a 22-year Trustee with the Boise School District, asking that you oppose SB1418.

I know that politics are at play here which makes me so very sad because this bill is not about the well-being of school children but about special interest groups that do not support any kind of restriction on the use of firearms. The influence of those dollars is more heavy-handed and loud than the pleas of school board members across this state who are pleading for the legislature to respect the local governance of boards duly elected to make decisions in the best interests of their local schools and communities. Please hear us and respect us as fellow elected officials.

At the request of the Chair, education stakeholders came to the table and negotiated against our own best interests. With this bill, the legislature is pushing this messy discussion down into our board rooms where we will have to deal with a lengthy, involved process of policy and management of what we see as a serious encroachment on our duties as locally elected officials. I realize that lots of minds came together to work on amendments, however, the bottom line is that local boards can't just say, "No," to concealed carry on their campuses! I note that this bill gives districts time to work with our stakeholders on policy and implementation. What if our stakeholders say they do not want concealed carry in their schools?

Please let local boards, who already have the authority to authorize concealed carry do our jobs instead of making us deal with the burden that comes with this bill. I pray that we can come out in the end with local control protected and respected.

I might add that the incident in Rigby with a shooter was solved not by a gun but by a relationship.

Please oppose this bill and support us as we strive to govern in our districts with fidelity to our communities.

Sincerely,
Nancy Gregory,
Trustee for 22 years,
Boise School District