

March 14, 2021

To: Senate Education Committee

From: League of Women Voters of Idaho, Susan Ripley, president

RE: Opposed to H 293

The League of Women Voters of Idaho opposes H 293. The League supports consistency in state education funding based on long-term goals. To allow local school districts to plan more effectively and deal with local needs, caution is urged in the use of one-time funding and in attaching detailed "strings" to school appropriations.

This bill would take money from public schools which would be disruptive for school budgeting plans for instructional services. This bill would take control away from districts. The Idaho Association of School Administrators and Idaho School Boards Administration testified against H 293 arguing "it takes local control away from districts that have had to manage competing interests during the COVID-19 crisis." (idahoednews.org , 3.10.21)

Idaho already ranks at the bottom in the nation for per student funding. Let's not reduce the funding more.