

RESOLUTION URGING OUR LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP TO
BRING S1085 TO THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS AND VOTE ON S1085 DURING THIS
CURRENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION

We, the undersigned, are asking the Legislature to hold hearings on S1085 or similar legislation to end Idaho's participation in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test. Despite our ongoing efforts to bring these important issues before the relevant legislative committees for an open hearing, our requests have been dismissed. Idaho citizens deserve the opportunity to participate in a public discussion of these matters which directly affect the lives of our children and families. To date, there has not been a single debate, floor vote or hearing held on this controversial test. The legislatures of seven (7) other states have reconsidered their participation in SBAC and, having been convinced of its problems, withdrawn their participation. We therefore present you with this resolution and urge you to examine the growing concerns with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and the SBAC test, and ask you to consider this resolution:

WHEREAS early SBAC test experience in other states has shown that the increased length of the test, at 8 hours or more, is causing unnecessary stress and anxiety for students, particularly among the youngest learners; and

WHEREAS the longer SBAC test has necessarily increased the testing window from 4 weeks to 8 weeks, thereby extending the period of time when classroom instruction is disrupted by unavailable computer labs and incomplete classrooms. Many teachers surveyed have complained that testing has become a major distraction in their classrooms; and

WHEREAS the simple fail/pass/excel rankings of the SBAC test results will provide no actionable items upon which meaningful improvements to classroom instruction can be based; and

WHEREAS there are tests that are more cost effective than the SBAC test, and these tests have been shown in other states to save taxpayer dollars and fulfill the requirements of federal government education waivers; and

WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the students, parents, teachers and taxpayers of Idaho that only testing of proper quality and quantity be administered in order to serve an educational purpose, as over testing can be costly and a poorly designed test can be detrimental to the students learning process. The SBAC test itself has no validity and reliability report upon which Idaho can rely to ensure the test is appropriate for use in Idaho schools, or for federal reporting purposes per IDAPA 08.02.03.111.11.c; and

WHEREAS the federally funded Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium holds a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Education where Article II, A.5 requires them to "*develop a strategy to make student-level data that results from the assessment system available on an ongoing basis for research...*" and Appendix E, N.6 which states that they "*...must provide timely and complete access to any and all data collected at the State level to ED or its designated program monitors...*". There is no evidence to suggest that this agreement has been revised or retracted; and

WHEREAS Idaho is currently required to pay a membership fee of \$9.55 per student per year to the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium in addition to actual testing costs and a Missouri judge has ruled that such membership fees are illegal and void in his state, writing... *“The Court finds that the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, a.k.a. Smarter Balanced, Smarter Balanced at UCLA, SBAC, and SB, is an unlawful interstate compact to which the U.S. Congress has never consented, whose existence and operation violate the Compact Clause of the U.S. Constitution, Article I, § 10, cl. 3, as well as numerous federal statutes”*; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the undersigned to urge our legislative leadership to facilitate a public and open discussion on the benefits and detriments of the SBAC membership and the SBAC test; and to allow for public hearings on S1085 so as to get public comment on this very important issue facing our parents, teachers and students. These important policy decisions will have a profound effect upon the lives of a great many Idaho citizens and, as such, deserve the attention of the full legislative body and the public;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the undersigned feel that a failure by this Legislature to consider the widespread public opposition to Common Core and the SBAC test has severe potential consequences to our children and Idaho’s future of such magnitude that the entire membership of the Idaho Legislature should have the opportunity to participate in a full and careful reconsideration of Idaho’s membership in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and of Idaho’s current plan to utilize the Common Core aligned SBAC test.

The representative footprint of the groups signed below is currently well over 20,000 Idaho citizens

Idahoans for Local Education
Stephanie Zimmerman, Founder

9-12 Project of Idaho
Valerie Candelaria, President

Idahoans Against Common Core
*Becky Foster, Stephanie Gifford, Wayne Trudo,
Co-Founders*

Act! For America – Idaho Chapter
Warren Grover, President

Ada County Tea Party
Tammy Sullivan Watson President

Canyon County Tea Party
Darryl & Sheila Ford, Leaders

Central Idaho Tea Party
Dennis Stewart, President

Custer County Republican Central Comm.
Mike Barrett, Chairman

Custer County Tea Party
Darr & Dorothy Moon

Gem State Patriot Newsletter
Bob Neugebauer, Publisher

Grass Roots S.W. Idaho
Jan Montano, Leader

Idaho Business Alliance
George Gersema, CEO

Idaho Carry Open & Concealed
Tony Snesko, President

Idaho Chooses Life
David Ripley, Exec. Dir.

Idaho County Commissioner
Jim Chmelik

Idaho County Tea Party
Mary Adler

Idaho Eagle Forum
Tammy Nichols, President

Idaho Federation of Young Republicans
Ben Fulcher, President

Idaho Freedom Foundation
Wayne Hoffman, President

Idaho Second Amendment Alliance
Greg Pruett, President

John Birch Society of Idaho
Tom Munds, Coordinator

Kootenai County Republican Central Comm.
Neil Oliver, Chairman

Lemhi County Tea Party
Ken Ledford, President

Lewis & Clark Tea Party
Rose Bunch

Liberty Writ
Lance Earl, Publisher

Mini-Cassia Tea Party
Rita Ramsey, President

Oathkeepers – Idaho District 3
Lynn House, Director

Panda Idaho
Jason Casella

Payette County Tea Party
Katherine Harris, President

Pocatello Tea Party Patriots
Larae Oram, President

Republican Liberty Caucus of Idaho “RCLID”
Karen Calisterio, Chairperson

Tea Party Gem County
Wayne Montano, Leader

Tea Party Patriots of North Idaho
Brent Regan, President

TVOI News
Mike Emry, Publisher

Washington County Tea Party
Larry Lundin, President

Young Americans for Liberty (YAL)
Nick Ferronato

“In Harmony With” the Idaho Republican Party
Barry Peterson, Former Chairman