



1 I am here today to express my strong support for House Bill No. 1328, which seeks to amend
2 and clarify key definitions related to custodianship and delinquency referrals to juvenile
3 court. These changes provide necessary clarification to ensure that our laws are interpreted
4 and applied as originally intended, thereby eliminating confusion and enhancing the
5 effectiveness of school and law enforcement interactions. It is worth noting that I worked
6 with both Chairman Klemin, Senator Larson, and Rep. Heinert to ensure this language was
7 acceptable and met the spirit of the law.

8 The revisions regarding delinquency referrals to juvenile court create a clear framework for
9 handling misdemeanor offenses that occur on school property. These changes strike a crucial
10 balance between the responsibilities of school administrators and law enforcement officers.
11 By requiring schools to exhaust all internal disciplinary policies before referring students to
12 the juvenile court system, we are fostering an environment where educational interventions
13 take precedence over punitive measures. This approach aligns with best practices in student
14 behavior management and supports the long-term success of our youth.

15 Importantly, the bill also delineates specific misdemeanor offenses—such as drug-related
16 offenses, offenses against a person, sex offenses, and weapons-related offenses—that
17 warrant immediate law enforcement involvement without the requirement for prior school
18 interventions. This provision is essential to maintaining the safety and security of our school
19 communities while ensuring that school administrators are not placed in the challenging
20 position of managing serious legal matters beyond their expertise.

21 By clarifying these definitions and referral processes, House Bill No. 1328 empowers our
22 principals and school administrators with clear guidelines, allowing them to focus on their
23 primary mission of providing quality education. It also provides a structured pathway for
24 law enforcement officers to appropriately address more serious offenses, ensuring a
25 coordinated response that prioritizes both student support and public safety.

26 I respectfully urge the committee to support this bill and recognize the positive impact these
27 changes will have on our schools, students, and communities. Thank you for your time and
28 consideration.