



1 HB 1521

2 Testimony in support – Learn Everywhere

3 Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee. I am here
4 representing your school leaders in support of this bill. The learn everywhere bill was
5 passed last session to provide a pathway for enhanced opportunities for business and
6 industry to partner with schools and students and for students to be able to earn credit
7 in school for appropriate experiences. Education and business and industry
8 enthusiastically supported the bill. However, last session we were unsure of the
9 rationale to have so many layers of approval in the process when local districts really
10 already had all the authority they needed to do the spirit of the bill.

11 What passed was a method for approval that has proven to be cumbersome and
12 unnecessary. In fact, districts have been doing internships and apprenticeships for years.
13 Many of you might be familiar with the “school to work program.” Schools are not
14 using the Learning Continuum program because the process proved to have enough red
15 tape that they continued to use processes already in place to perform the same work.
16 How it exists in law currently is after the board of a district has approved a proposal –
17 that proposal was to go to the K12 coordination council for review and then to the
18 superintendent of public instruction for approval or denial, and that the superintendent
19 of public instruction could intervene and end a school/work partnership.

20 **Issues with current law:**



- 1 • Board of a local district should have the authority to do this without further
2 approvals in place. This is the case in other areas of century code that share
3 similarity in nature.
- 4 • This responsibility is beyond the scope of the K12 coordination council. Further
5 their meeting structure and timing doesn't match to do such work.
- 6 • This process should be handled locally.

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8 **What the bill does:**

9 This bill very simply removes the layered process of approval and leaves that awarding
10 of credit for experience and achievement of the standard when there is cooperation with
11 outside business and industry to be at the discretion of the locally elected school board
12 and school district. The state superintendent retains authority to intervene in cases
13 where the partnership is outside of the current authority that exists with career and
14 technical education programs.

15 If the state is looking for more schools utilizing this authority, getting rid of the red tape
16 and respecting the decision making of our local boards. Thank you for considering this
17 testimony. We ask respectfully for a DO PASS recommendation of this bill.