
Testimony SB 2296
Senate Education Committee
February 1, 2023; 3:00 P.M.
Education Standards and Practice Board
Dr. Rebecca Pitkin

Good afternoon, Chair Larson, and members of the Committee. My name is Rebecca Pitkin, and I am the Executive Director of the Education Standards and Practices Board. I am here today to testify in opposition to SB 2296. Chapter 28-32 indicates administrative agencies and their boards are best positions to make the final decision regarding an educator's case due to their specific knowledge and experience. There are multiple components to a case and the Board has the expertise to navigate these.

When our board receives recommended findings and orders from the Administrative Law Judge, they take these into consideration along with the hearing testimony and make a final decision. Although most our Board's final decisions have aligned with the recommended findings and order, the process has enabled the board to continue dialogue and integrate their expertise to arrive at a decision.

The Education Standards and Practices Board conducts a paper review of complaints and does not have oral testimony. The allowance of testimony (28-32-25) at a hearing provides additional information the board considers following the hearing, once again utilizing their knowledge and experience in the field to make a final decision.

SB 2296 attempts to diminish the elements underlying the administrative agencies' practices act and seeks to take the decision making away from those most qualified to determine teacher sanctions: school board members, principals, superintendents, teacher education faculty members, and teachers themselves. The current provisions of Chapter 28-32 allow the individuals who make up the ESPB Board to ensure that findings, conclusions, and orders issued

are consistent with the standards that govern the teaching profession. The Education Standards and Practices Board respectfully requests a DO NOT PASS on SB 2296.

Thank you for allowing me to share the Board's concerns. I am willing to answer any questions relating to my testimony.

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