



1 Testimony in Opposition HB 1288

2 Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide
3 testimony in opposition to House Bill No. 1288. This bill presents significant concerns regarding
4 its fiscal impact, overreach of authority, and the undue burden it places on the State Board of
5 Public School Education (hereto after State Board).

6 First and foremost, the fiscal note associated with this bill is expected to be extraordinarily high.
7 The proposed requirement for the State Board and the Attorney General (hereto after AG) to
8 review and investigate school district compliance with state education laws would necessitate
9 substantial financial and personnel resources. This added responsibility would require significant
10 staffing increases, legal consultations, and administrative support, all of which would create an
11 unsustainable financial burden on the state.

12 Additionally, the provisions outlined in HB 1288 would impose duties on the State Board that
13 are not within its powers under Century Code. The board's primary role is not to serve as an
14 enforcement or investigative entity. Tasking the board with reviewing compliance inquiries and
15 facilitating legal determinations fundamentally alters its intended function and oversteps its
16 statutory authority. Furthermore, on the most basic level it ignores a most basic premise of
17 following the chain of command with grievances or complaints. When did it become so hard to
18 talk to a teacher, a principal, a coach, or a superintendent? I can't even imagine the mess we'd be
19 in if the AG must investigate every time a parent is upset that their kid didn't get enough play
20 time in the game, as an example.

21 It is also important to highlight the duplicative and excessive nature of this bill when compared
22 to SB 2104 which is also unworkable. HB 1288 goes even further in its demands, introducing a
23 layer of bureaucratic oversight that is not only unnecessary but also counterproductive. The AG's
24 office already has mechanisms in place to address legal compliance matters, and further
25 redundancy only serves to complicate existing processes.

26 Furthermore, this bill could lead to an influx of frivolous complaints, diverting valuable time and
27 resources away from critical educational priorities. Schools are already subject to numerous
28 accountability measures, and additional oversight of this magnitude could hinder their ability to
29 focus on student learning and operational efficiency.

30 School districts have existing policies in place for all manner of concerns (curriculum, personnel
31 complaints, patron complaints, etc). Concerns are best addressed the closest to those concerns
32 and these policies already exist as recourse for concerns. HB 1188 would circumvent these
33 policies and pull the issue further away from the local entities hired/elected to address them.

34 HB 1288 represents an overreach in both fiscal and administrative capacities, imposing
35 impractical and unsustainable expectations on the State Board. We urge the committee to oppose
36 this bill and instead focus on solutions that support our schools within their existing governance
37 framework and their locally elected officials and highly trained professionals.