

DISTRICT 18 DETAILER

"The Newsletter of Representative Branden J. Durst"

March 13, 2009, Volume 3, Issue 5

(208)332-1034 • idaho18.blogspot.com • bdurst@house.idaho.gov



From the desk...

Dear Reader,
I hope you find this newsletter full of useful information. As your elected state legislator, I am fully committed to working for you. I also hope you are able to provide me your input. By doing so, I will be better prepared to serve you and represent your interests in the Idaho State Legislature. If for any reason you have a question, concern or suggestion please let me know.

NEWS BITES

Final District 18 legislative forum of 2009 will be held on March 19 at Timberline High School at 7PM.

Rep. Durst and Cronin will introduce a Parents as Teachers bill in House Education on Monday.

GUV CALLS FOR ED CUTS IN SPITE OF STIMULUS

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter held a press conference on Thursday announcing his priorities in spending federal stimulus money.

The announcement came after hearing a report from his committee assigned to studying the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, commonly known as the federal stimulus package.

There were many winners and losers in the Governors proposal, but no bigger loser than perhaps Idaho's school children. The proposal reaf-

firmed Superintendent He remarked, "Asking of Public Instructions students to bear the brunt of this economic crisis is not only unfair, but also unwise. This is no time to undermine the system of education that is the key to our future prosperity."

Education advocates, including associations representing teachers and administrators, claim that the cuts will have a significant negative impact on students.

Representative Branden Durst (D-18A), a member of the House Education Committee, was decidedly opposed to the Governor's proposal.

proposal and what it could mean for educators and students. While there are many unknowns, the one certainty is that debate is far from over. As JFAC begins setting budgets and Education Committees debate changes, policymakers will have plenty of opportunities to hear from their constituents.

The Governor's proposal has also met some resistance by some Republican legislators. Notably, Senator Dean Cameron (R-26), a co-chair of the powerful Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee. Sen. Cameron expressed concern for the



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

HB84, proposed by Representatives Branden Durst (D-18A) and Donna Pence (D-25B), was given a hearing in House Education Committee on Wednesday this week.

The legislation would permit students who turn five after September 1 and who attend in-state private kindergartens to move onto first grade if they pass a first grade entrance exam.

Currently students who come from out-of-state who have completed kindergarten, regardless of their age, are permitted to enroll in first grade.

The bill was held until Monday at which point a vote will taken. Supporters are hopeful that the bill be voted on by the full House next week.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The House Business Committee approved legislation that will permit the State of Idaho to adopt the 2006 Residential Building Code. The bill, HB220, is the culmination of several years of effort by various stakeholder groups including disability advocates and those in building industry. The Association of Idaho Cities also was supportive of the legislation and urged its passage.

The committee voted 14 in favor and two opposed to send the bill to the floor with a do pass recommendation. The bill currently sits near the top of the Third Calendar meaning it will be debated early next week.

HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

As a preview, the House Health and Welfare Committee will be the focus of many next week as it is scheduled to begin hearing S 1112, the daycare licensing bill. The legislation passed the Senate this week on a 30-5 vote.

The committee was the burial place for similar legislation introduced two years ago. This year may be different, however. In the Senate, longtime opponents to the proposal ultimately endorsed its passage. Advocates for daycare safety are hoping that this year the same will be true in the House. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend the hearings.