

To the Members for the CO House Education Committee;

I apologize for my inability to testify in person this week, but hope you will accept the following testimony regarding this bill:

HB19-1201 rectifies a well-intended, but, in reality, harmful provision regarding school negotiations.

Those school boards which have voluntarily agreed to collective bargaining with teachers, and other education employees, are caught in a double bind: good faith bargaining requires that the board and its negotiators be honest and open at the bargaining table; the law requires the board to either bargain 'in public' by declaring its intentions before going to the table, or for its negotiators to operate in a vacuum without board direction or input. This is not just counter productive but terribly harmful.

The law as it now creates distrust and dissension between a board/district and its employees. Please support this relief - it will lift this onerous weight and allow districts and employees to work together in good faith, and to begin to rebuild necessary trust and relationships.

It is only when all of public education partners work together that Colorado's kids succeed.

thank you for your consideration,

Barb Clementi
President, Pueblo District 60
Board of Education