

House Education

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HB26-1094 Proposed Guidance Policies Developed by CDE

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Toby Melster For Las Animas School District RE-1	<p>Good afternoon committee and thank you for allowing me this opportunity to submit a written testimony in support of HB26-1094. My name is Toby Melster and I am the Superintendent for the Las Animas School District RE-1. The role of being a superintendent has been and continues to be one that, especially in a smaller rural school, wears a different hat at any given point in time. The reality of being able to stay aware of and knowledgeable of proposed changes with policies, state regulations and laws becomes increasingly difficult due to the lack of time available for this task. A superintendents focus in with the district and ensuring the students of the district are receiving the education they each deserve. The proposed Colorado School District Superintendents Council as proposed in HB26-1094 provides me and other superintendents a collective voice and group of professionals that we know will be dedicated to keeping the best interest of students and districts at hand. I do wish to say that this is not an accusation nor indication that CDE does not inform nor keep districts and superintendents aware. The reality is that the time needed to read through and then give feedback on guidance policies is just not there as the daily responsibilities and duties increase quite often. As I stated above this council will consist of the professionals that superintendents as a whole will trust and rely upon to work collaboratively with CDE on guidance policies. I also believe that by implementing this council the state legislature and CDE will be demonstrating a good faith effort to work together with districts as well as example their belief that local control can be maintained and supported. I thank the committee for reading through this written testimony and hope that serious consideration is given to supporting HB26-1094 and allowing CDE and school districts the opportunity to work collaboratively and alongside each other for the betterment of K-12 education in the state of Colorado.</p>