

EDGAR MALEPEAI
DISTRICT30
BANNOCK COUNTY

HOME ADDRESS
585 SO. 19TH
POCATELLO, IDAHO 83201
(208) 232-2602
malepeed@gmail.com



OFFICE ADDRESS
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0081
(208) 332-1409
FAX: (208) 334-2116
emalepeai@senate.idaho.gov

Idaho State Senate

SENATOR EDGAR MALEPEAI SENATE MINORITY LEADER

For immediate release - Thursday, February 24, 2011

Senate Democrats Fighting Passage of Otter-Luna Education Proposal

Boise – Democrats in the Idaho Senate are standing with the vast majority of Idahoans and fighting passage of the Otter-Luna education gambit during today’s floor debate. Despite deceptive fliers and radio ads funded by the dubious Idahoans for Better Education, a cherry-picked “town hall” sponsored by for-profit education interests and a direct call-to-action by the Idaho GOP, grassroots opposition continues to grow at unprecedented levels. Still, the sponsors of this legislation continue to proceed in the face of mounting concerns over Superintendent Luna’s motivations for rushing this flawed plan through the Legislature.

Senate Education Committee Chairman John Goedde sent SB1113 back to committee which left SB1108 and 1110 on today’s agenda. “This is an interesting tactic given that the three bills making up the plan have been inextricably intertwined since its inception,” said Senate Minority Leader Edgar Malepeai. “These bills shouldn’t be rebooted – they should just be booted.”

Assistant Minority Leader Les Bock said, “Tom Luna’s plan to add 1,000 experienced educators to our unemployment rolls and increase class size, strip due process for those left standing and abolish collective bargaining rights is seriously misguided and dangerous. How can we possibly pass Pay for Performance legislation today when the reckless bill to fund this \$38 million-dollar-proposal is being reworked in committee?”

“We need to honor our commitment to public education and our children,” said Senate Minority Caucus Chair Michelle Stennett. “When we evaluate the necessity for change, we must have a well-crafted course of action. Democrats will not allow this unprovoked attack on Idaho’s educators and children to go unchallenged.”

For more information, contact:

Senator Edgar Malepeai, 208-251-9517, emalepeai@senate.idaho.gov

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