

EDUCATION VOTERS OF IDAHO

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For immediate release*

Founders: “We won’t back down” EVI asserts independence, announces aggressive agenda

Boise – In an opinion piece released today, two founding members of Education Voters of Idaho said the group will re-engage the public after being forced by Idaho’s Secretary of State to stop its activities.

“Attacks against us show just how dangerous a powerful group of motivated parents will be to a politicized system in desperate need of improvement and change,” states the editorial, which was written by Debbie Field and John Foster. “Although efforts by the Secretary of State, the union and its allies have temporarily chilled our ability to fulfill our mission, we won’t back down.”

Field is a former Idaho legislator and is in the Idaho Republican Party “Hall of Fame.” Foster is a lobbyist and political consultant who was executive director of the Idaho Democratic Party. Earlier this year, the two helped found EVI to promote the need for changes and improvements to Idaho’s education system. Their editorial stakes out the group’s position on education reform and also distances the organization from any particular political party, politician or campaign.

“Unfortunately, our organization has been maligned by some and misunderstood by many due to the same politicization that is bogging down reforms and our state’s schools,” the editorial states. “We are not an arm of any other organization. We do not exist to support any one person. We were not founded to represent a specific set of political interests.”

In a letter last week to the Secretary of State, the group asserted its Constitutional rights to pursue its mission and decried being singled out by the government agency. Today, the group is announcing that over the two weeks before Election Day it will undertake a new effort to talk to voters about education reform and make sure they understand the education issues on Idaho’s ballot.

EVI will also launch a website later this week. The site will provide an opportunity for Idahoans to join the group, and will provide information on plans for lobbying, future legislation, a legislative scorecard, candidate questionnaires, statewide town halls, and information for parents and taxpayers.

“We exist because we believe Idaho needs reform,” the editorial states. “We want to put power in the hands of parents and get them involved in how schools are run. We want to make sure all Idaho students have the education they need to be prepared for a bright future. We want students and teachers to have the technology they need to make sure they can learn anytime, anywhere. And we demand that parents have the final say in how our schools are run.”

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