

Office of Public Instruction
Prepared Testimony on SB170

Bill Number: SB170
Bill Subject: Flexibility in setting school calendars; eliminating 180-day requirement
and requiring a minimum number of aggregate hours each year
Sponsor: Sen. J. Mangan
Pro/Opp/Info: Proponent
Committee: Senate Education and Cultural Resources
Chairperson: Sen. Don Ryan
Meeting Info: January 10, 2005 3:00 pm Room 317C

Testimony:

Chairman Ryan and Members of the Committee, for the record my name is Madalyn Quinlan. I am here to provide testimony on behalf of Superintendent Linda McCulloch in support of SB170.

The flexibility being granted to school districts under SB170 will benefit districts in the planning and scheduling of professional development inservice training sessions for staff. For this reason, the OPI supports SB170. However, the OPI does offer one amendment to SB170, that being a change in Section 12 (specifically, on page 11 line 25 of the bill).

We suggest that the wording on line 25 be changed to be consistent with the other proposed changes which eliminate references to a 180-day school year. We propose that the sentence on line 25 be changed by deleting the words "3 days" and inserting wording so that the line reads as follows:

"(a) extending the school year 12 hours for grades 1 through 3 and 18 hours for grades 4 through 12, or the equivalent aggregate hours of pupil instruction beyond the last scheduled day; or" [emphasis added]

With this change, Superintendent McCulloch and the Office of Public Instruction support the bill and ask the Committee to give SB170 favorable consideration.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.