RESPONSE TO PROPOSSED HOUSE BILL 1481

Dear Representatives Hayes and Bergquist,

I am a Traffic Safety Instructor at Mount Si High School.

As I reviewed this bill, I have become convinced that instead of improving the quality of the Traffic Safety in the State of Washington, the legislature and the DOL are downgrading the standards.

When I came back into Traffic Safety Education about 10 years ago with a commercial company, my OSPI teaching credentials and endorsement didn´t qualify me for anything.  I had to take 100 hours of their classes, etc. and get paid minimum wage and take a test and I was good to go to drive and teach.  I thought it was strange that my OSPI certification did not carry more weight than the commercial school was offering and I had to start all over again.  I did receive minimum wage to go through the commercial program.  I couldn´t believe they paid us to do this, but of course, out of the class of 12, only 2 were there after 6 months.  It always works that way as we all know, no skin in the game so no big deal to leave whenever the going got tough. In teaching whether in regular education or TSE, we experience a lot of negativity.

The issue that really caused me great concern was that in 2020 or whatever, we just tear up out teaching credentials and endorsement and move over to a program of who knows what the nature of that may be.  I have nothing against commercial schools or the DOL, as there are some really great people providing what we all want, quality Traffic Safety Education to all our students.

We need to keep Central Washington University involved and funded like they have been.  My Dad always encouraged education of any kind and said, once you get that piece of paper saying you were certified for something, no one could take it away.  In this case, I see the piece of paper being taken away as it is no longer of value if this bill goes through.  I did spend thousands of dollars to get the degree and endorsement and now it has no value.  Something is wrong with this picture.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bud Raisio