WHEREAS, Idaho’s citizens with severe or life-threatening diseases or conditions may not be able to access critical medications that are still in clinical trials; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has established Expanded Access Programs to allow limited, supervised access to such medications; and

WHEREAS, the FDA has approved an Expanded Access Program for Epidiolex®, a drug being evaluated for treatment-resistant epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that eight people per 1,000 have active epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, there are children in Idaho with treatment-resistant epilepsy who may benefit from Epidiolex®; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Welfare operates to improve the health status of Idahoans, increase the safety and self-sufficiency of individuals and families, and enhance the delivery of health and human services;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. “BUTCH” OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Idaho, do hereby order as follows:

1. The Department of Health and Welfare shall investigate the need for, and implement if appropriate, as determined by the Department, a FDA-approved Expanded Access Program for Epidiolex®;
2. Further, as part of the investigation, the Department shall estimate the scope of the need in Idaho for this program, and shall determine whether appropriate medical supervision is available that allows safe and effective implementation of such a program;
3. If implemented, the Department shall investigate and monitor long-term solutions, such as licensure of the medication, that may reduce or eliminate the need for the program in the future; and
4. The Department shall track funding utilized for the program and may accept private contributions, federal funds, funds from other public agencies or any other source for the purpose of implementing this study.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 16th day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen, and of the independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-ninth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-fifth.