



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

April 5, 2012

The Honorable Lawrence Denney
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I hereby advise you that I have transmitted today to the Secretary of State the following House Bill, which was allowed to become law without my signature:

H 603

as prescribed by the Constitution.

While I am sensitive to local school districts' need for some level of budgetary certainty through a guaranteed minimal funding level from year to year – in this case 97 percent of the previous year's funding – I am uncomfortable with the notion of distributing limited resources not only to a student's current school, but also to their previous school.

The maturation of the Statewide Longitudinal Data System enables us to track the movements of our student population in what approaches a real-time manner. This unprecedented ability, along with additional tools provided to local trustees to more fully manage their resources, makes it more important than ever that State funding should follow the student. Rather than providing a percentage of funding to districts for students who simply are no longer there, we should continue examining ways to better link Average Daily Attendance to the presence of the student in their current district.

I look forward to continuing our "Students Come First" efforts to ensure Idaho's public schools are world-class models of efficiency and excellence. That may include revisiting this law during the Legislature's 2013 session.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter".

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

Cc: Lieutenant Governor Brad Little