



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

March 28, 2022

The Honorable Scott Bedke
Speaker of the House
Idaho State House of Representatives
Hand Delivered

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I hereby advise you that I have signed on March 25, 2022, and transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, with my approval, the following House of Representatives bill, to wit:

HOUSE BILL 777

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 12:25 p.m. on March 25, 2022.

I appreciate the extensive amount of time and work spent by the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee to develop a sound budget that benefits all Idahoans to the fullest extent. I face the same challenges when developing my executive budget recommendation and can relate to the difficult decisions involved in managing a lean and efficient budget that fulfills state obligations and accomplishes priorities.

Budgeting involves confronting tradeoffs and setting priorities. Given the growth trajectory of Medicaid spending, my budget proposed to leverage excess Millennium Funds to partially offset the impact to the General Fund. The legislature instead chose to use these funds for a range of other programs, including television content on smoking and vaping.

Rather than addressing this tradeoff in priorities, House Bill 777 simply leaves a \$3.8 million gap in the General Fund budget that will have to be filled as a supplemental appropriation next legislative session and each session thereafter. This maneuver falls short of the budget integrity ideals espoused in Section 10 of the appropriation bill. Similarly, the passage of S 1283 with no trailer appropriation, and failing to provide adequate spending authority for childcare assistance grants in H 764, will require supplementals next session – a budget mechanism that is intended to be reserved for unanticipated and emergency needs and one that precludes the agency from efficiently managing its annual budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho