



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Mike Moyle
Speaker of the House
Idaho House of Representatives
Hand Delivered

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I hereby advise you that I have signed on April 3, 2023, and transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, with my approval, the following House Bill to wit:

HOUSE BILL 113

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrive in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 9:40 a.m. on March 29, 2023.

Education investments, school choice, and a thriving public charter school community are key factors to a healthy education system, and all have been top priorities of my administration. Our commitment is evident in our record education investments. Just this year, we increased starting teacher pay again, targeting Idaho for a top 10 spot nationally, we increased classified pay by nearly \$100 million, and we continued funding for the Empowering Parents grant program. My administration is dedicated to the success of our Idaho students and families.

With these record investments and major policy advancements, Idaho taxpayers expect both financial accountability and academic results. Idaho's public charter school system is well known for both aspects, but without proper safeguards and checks in place, some charter schools can operate in financial or academic doubt without any consequences. Codifying a school's ability to have a negative budget balance at the end of the school year be reset to zero raises questions of unity across the system and fiscal soundness of schools. Furthermore, allowing charter school parent companies to carry this balance on a debt sheet and requiring it to be paid back if the school ever begins to operate in the black forces the schools to be tied and indebted to the service provider. Holding public charter schools in Idaho to the same standards we hold our traditional public schools is a top priority and should also be a top goal for public charter schools and their managers. This will be something I continue to watch for while monitoring the effects of this bill.

As we move forward with our Idaho Public Charter School Commission, I remain committed to both investments in our schools and ensuring we have a return on that investment, with each dollar being spent in our K-12 system going toward benefiting Idaho students.

Sincerely,

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

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho