



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

April 5, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I hereby advise you that I have signed on April 4, 2023, and transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, with my approval, the following House Bill, to wit:

H 350

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 10:35 a.m. on March 30, 2023.

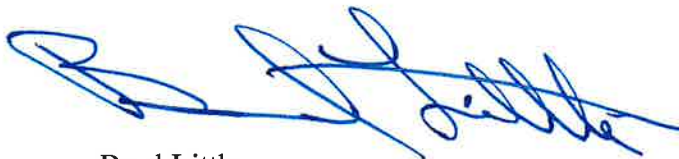
While I signed this bill, I did so with reservation. Given the growing threat of fentanyl in our state, it is counter-productive to erect barriers to accessing one of the primary lifesaving tools to reverse opioid overdoses: naloxone. Naloxone is safe, effective, and has limited side effects.

Section 16 adds red tape to the distribution of naloxone that runs counter to Idaho's all-hands-on-deck approach to the fentanyl crisis. This section limits distribution *only* to first responders. We know that most naloxone administrations in Idaho are by people *other than* first responders and thus distribution to community partners is critical. In fact, of the 1,238 reversals reported to the Department of Health and Welfare, 94% were not administered by first responders. We have also heard from organizations representing first responders that they do not have sufficient capacity and bandwidth to distribute naloxone to community partners. This is unsurprising given the known shortage of first responders in Idaho.

Imposing a new distribution strategy for naloxone on first responders without seemingly working with the associations representing first responders shows the danger of setting policy through intent language in a budget committee. This significant policy change may result in fewer naloxone doses available to administer in Idaho and, tragically, fewer lives saved.

Finally, just last week the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced the approval of over-the-counter sales of naloxone without a prescription. Having the least regulated state in the nation bind itself in needless red tape at the same time our usual regulators-in-chief in Washington, D.C., are deregulating this lifesaving tool is a mistake I do not want to repeat next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little", is written over a horizontal line.

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho

Cc: Secretary of State Phil McGrane