



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Scott Bedke
President of the Senate
Idaho State Senate
Hand Delivered

Dear Mr. President,

I hereby advise you that I have signed on March 30, 2023, and transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, with my approval, the following Senate bill, to wit:

SENATE BILL 1182

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 4:25 p.m. on March 29, 2023.

Although signing this bill, I disagree with the Transfer of Appropriations language in this appropriation bill – and all of the FY 2024 appropriations bills for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) – that restricts the transfer of personnel costs to other expense classes. This transmittal letter applies to all IDHW appropriations bills this session that include that language.

The state struggles to recruit and retain an adequate workforce, particularly IDHW positions such as social workers and medical professionals. Consequently, the IDHW relies on transfers at times from personnel costs to operating expenditures to hire contract physicians or nurses to adequately staff state-operated medical facilities that house some of Idaho's most vulnerable citizens who, without proper care, are a danger to themselves or others. To fulfill its core mission, the IDHW must transfer appropriations between expense classes when both minor and routine disruptions, such as these employment vacancies, occur. Accordingly, the inclusion of this restrictive language ties the hands of the IDHW to act effectively and efficiently when necessary. It is short-sighted and impedes the agency from responsibly managing its operations.

I look forward to working with you next session to understand the issue this is intended to resolve and find a more tenable long-term solution.

Sincerely,

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

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho