



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

April 8, 2024

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

Dear Speaker Moyle,

I hereby advise you that I have signed on April 4, 2024, and transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, with my approval, the following House bill, to wit:

H 398aaS

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 12:17 p.m. on March 29, 2024.

I support policy that ensures the Legislature is a meaningful partner with the executive branch in our shared goal of Medicaid cost containment. However, this bill contains vague language that, when coupled with the emergency clause, will immediately result in harmful disruption to the delivery of services to thousands of Idahoans.

Unless the bill is amended, the following consequences will likely occur, all of which result in immediate disruption of critical services to Idahoans:

1. Submission of the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan (IBHP) amendments for behavioral health services and residential treatment centers for substance use and psychiatric disorders will be immediately stopped;
2. The amendment for approval to pay out \$30-40 million in directed payments to 149 skilled nursing facilities across Idaho will be immediately stopped;
3. Submission to distribute \$70 million in rate adjustments for 1,406 providers and intermediate care facilities across Idaho will be immediately stopped; and

4. The submission for approval of \$4 million for reinstatement of personal care services management affecting 287 organizations will be immediately stopped.

Imminent action by the Legislature is necessary to provide the state with clarity and confidence that legal authority exists to continue with program implementation. In addition, the existence of other amendments and waivers impacted by this bill continue to be evaluated. Unless the issues are sufficiently addressed in a trailer bill, it is possible the Legislature may be required to return frequently for special sessions to ensure compliance with the law.

The window of opportunity to address the problem during this regular session of the legislature is quickly closing. My office is engaged in ongoing conversations with the Legislature to implement the necessary legislative solution.

Once again, I appreciate my legislative partners for advancing policy that seeks to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent as efficiently as possible in the state's Medicaid program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little", written in a cursive style.

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho