



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

April 10, 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 10, 2024, and transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, with my approval, the following House bill, to wit:

House Bill 710aaS

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 10:17 a.m. on April 4, 2024.

Like public schools, libraries are places where the community gathers to learn and connect. This is especially true in rural Idaho where the local schools and libraries have become hubs of community activity. For children, libraries open doors to reading and intellectual exploration, helping them to become lifelong learners. It's no wonder the vast majority of Idahoans say they value libraries and trust librarians. I, too, am a strong supporter of public libraries.

Last year, I vetoed a bill that would have created a library bounty system so egregious that smaller libraries would have been forced to close their doors to minors altogether. The bill would have significantly increased costs and liabilities for libraries, particularly in rural Idaho, and the costs would have been forced onto property taxpayers. The library bill the Legislature passed last year was a non-starter for me, especially because one of my top priorities is literacy and libraries play such a crucial role in helping our youngsters to read early on.

After vetoing last year's library bill, I told the sponsors my specific issues with it. In response, House Bill 710aaS this year addresses most, but not all, of the concerns I outlined in my veto letter last year. Primarily, this bill reduces damages from \$2,500 to \$250, and it allows a fair opportunity for local libraries to avoid legal action and fees if they address materials of concern within 60 days. Compared to last year's legislation, House Bill 710aaS also tightens the

definition of what is considered “harmful to minors,” providing greater clarity for local libraries and their patrons.

I share the cosponsors’ desire to keep truly inappropriate library materials out of the hands of minors. That said, I still believe a greater harm confronts our children – content accessible to them on their phones and devices. I was pleased to sign House Bill 498 this session requiring age verification on pornography web sites, and while we have much more to do to truly protect our children, House Bill 498 was a good start. However, I was disappointed the Legislature passed up an opportunity to advance meaningful legislation to truly protect children from the harms of social media, as I called on this body to do during my State of the State and Budget Address in January.

While I have signed House Bill 710aaS, like many Idahoans, I will be watching the implementation and outcomes of this legislation very closely.

Sincerely,

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

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho