



**BRAD LITTLE**  
GOVERNOR

April 1, 2024

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 April 1, 2024, and transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, with my approval, the following Senate bill, to wit:

SENATE BILL 1426

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 12:28 p.m. on March 26, 2024.

Although signing this bill, I will note there is an ongoing reduction of personnel costs from the Department of Health and Welfare's Service Integration and Developmental Disabilities programs. During the 2023 legislative session, the Legislature incorporated intent language within the department's budget restricting the transfer of personnel costs to other expense classes, which resulted in the department requesting fiscal year 2024 supplementals to make those transfers. Personnel surpluses are not created by programs with the intent of covering growing operating costs. Rather, they have historically been available due to difficulty in recruiting and retaining personnel due to labor market challenges.

While Senate Bill 1426 provides the one-time transfers of personnel costs to operating expenditures for these programs, the ongoing reduction of personnel funding starting in fiscal year 2025 will leave a hole in both programs' budgets. By doing so, the department will likely require a fiscal year 2025 supplemental appropriation to maintain its workforce and provide the essential services offered by the Developmental Disabilities and Service Integration programs.

I look forward to continuing to work with you next session to find a more adequate, long-term solution to address the department's ability to manage its operations responsibly.

Sincerely,

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

Brad Little  
Governor of Idaho