



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

April 8, 2026

The Honorable Phil McGrane
Secretary of State
Idaho Statehouse
Hand Delivery

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I hereby advise you that I have returned without my approval, disapproved, and vetoed the following House bill, to wit:

HOUSE BILL 758a

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 4:12 p.m. on April 1, 2026.

Safe, affordable, and accessible childcare is not just a family issue – it is fundamental to Idaho's workforce and economic growth. Working parents rely on childcare to participate in the labor force, and employers need those workers to sustain and grow their businesses.

House Bill 758a threatens child safety. This bill could eliminate licensing and fire inspection requirements for providers. In a fire or emergency evacuation, higher ratios and weaker safety requirements would prove catastrophic.

Additionally, rooting out childcare fraud and abuse is a top priority of mine. IDHW Director Juliet Charron just completed a rigorous audit of Idaho's childcare program with limited resources, finding Idaho's childcare fraud rate is among the lowest in the nation. We want to keep it that way. This bill heightens the risk of fraud and abuse because bad actors will more easily take advantage of the new requirement for the state to verify which children in a home are legitimate relatives. IDHW would have to create a new process to review birth certificates or other forms of identification to ensure compliance.

I am proud we have advanced innovative ways to safely expand childcare capacity during my time as Governor. I will not support House Bill 758a because it puts too much of our good work at risk.

Sincerely,

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

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho