



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

April 9, 2019

The Honorable Janice McGeachin
President of the Senate
Idaho Legislature
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Madam President,

I hereby advise you that I have transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, with my approval, the following Senate Bill, to wit:

S 1204aa, aaH

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 2:40 p.m. on April 8, 2019.

I appreciate the Idaho Legislature's innovative approach to expanding Medicaid to individuals under 138 percent of the federal poverty level while pursuing options that enable working Idahoans on private insurance to choose their healthcare and remain on private coverage. I value the success of Your Health Idaho and believe our citizens deserve the choice to access private insurance. The negotiations with the federal government will be challenging, but I have confidence in my directors of the Department of Health and Welfare and the Department of Insurance and their ability to work with our federal partners and pursue the waiver required to implement this approach.

I also strongly support the goal to incentivize unemployed and underemployed individuals to engage in work and training opportunities to build financial stability. We must encourage self-sufficiency among those receiving public assistance. However, I have concerns regarding the work and training reporting requirements in this bill. Similar requirements have resulted in costly lawsuits and were recently struck down in federal courts.

As I said in my State of the State and Budget address, we need "spring in our safety net" so that Idahoans have pathways out of poverty; employment is a critical component of that. Unfortunately, this bill fails to utilize our existing work and training program, which focuses on outcomes to help individuals find employment, complete training programs, and enroll in education programs to increase employment and enhance wages. Utilization of the program also would streamline more efficient and accurate reporting. Additionally, the reporting activities

required in this bill risk eligibility sanctions associated with reporting errors and result in an unnecessary administrative burden that requires the same reporting for individuals who are working.

I am troubled the fiscal impact does not accurately represent the increased administrative costs associated with the work reporting activities. In the future, I strongly urge the Legislature to evaluate the work requirement set forth in this bill and ensure it is the most effective and efficient way to connect Idahoans to employment opportunities while providing access to healthcare.

I strongly encourage the Legislature to revisit the key tenets of this bill in the interim and early next session to address these issues.

Sincerely,

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

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho