



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

May 7, 2021

The Honorable Lawrence Denney
Secretary of State
Idaho State Capitol
Statehouse Mail

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hereby advise you that I have signed on May 10, 2021 and transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, the following Senate Bill, to wit:

SENATE BILL 1204

I am concerned the language in S 1204 is in conflict with Idaho Code 67-3516(2) allowing the administrator of the Division of Financial Management, the Board of Examiners, and the State Controller's Office to grant non-state fund spending authority "if not cognizable at the time when appropriations were made." This statutory authority is longstanding.

The bill declares all funds resulting from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) are cognizable, although the Legislative Services Office identified in Idaho Report 21-01 that there are programs for "which there are not specified dollar amounts for funding awards or sufficient guidance..." Thus, by the Legislature's own admission, certain funds are not cognizable, notwithstanding this bill's declaration to the contrary. As such, critical funding for issues such as suicide prevention and funding to the aging population are at risk of timely distribution.

I have made clear my commitment to work collaboratively with the Legislature on the discretionary funds and look forward to working together on investments that will benefit our children and grandchildren. However, limiting the authority to use non-discretionary grant funds for specific programs that are demonstrably not cognizable at the time of appropriations will mean that there will be significant delays for programs that may be needed to facilitate our economic rebound.

Sincerely,

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

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho