



Governor Brad Little

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 17, 2020

Governor Little creates Teacher Health Insurance Working Group

Boise, Idaho – Governor Little announced today the creation of a new working group to examine ways to decrease the cost of health insurance for Idaho teachers.

"I am committed to elevating the teaching profession in Idaho by adequately compensating our teachers for the important work they do," Governor Little said. "Increasing teacher salaries is part of the solution – and I will continue in my efforts to raise teacher pay across the board – but as my partners in the Legislature have pointed out, we also need to find ways to decrease teachers' health insurance costs."

Representatives Jerald Raymond and Rod Furniss will co-chair the Teacher Health Insurance Working Group. In addition to finding ways to make health insurance more affordable for Idaho teachers, the group will examine ways to make the State of Idaho health plan more efficient.

The Idaho Department of Administration will be the lead state agency for the working group under the leadership of Director Keith Reynolds.

Other members of the working group will include additional members of the Idaho Senate and House of Representatives, the Idaho Department of Insurance, educators, the Division of Financial Management, and the Governor's Office.

"We look forward to working cooperatively with fellow legislators and the Governor's Office to create a comprehensive and cost-effective solution to health care coverage for those who work daily with our students. We will leverage our relationships jointly with all stakeholders to accomplish this important task. Public school employees have been struggling for years to access affordable health care for their families. Teachers in rural areas are in short supply because of the inability to be competitive and recruit. Many hours have been spent searching for a solution and we have made excellent headway. The Governor's new working group will search out even better options and seek consensus and input," Representatives Raymond and Furniss said.

The working group is expected to meet for the first time following the 2020 legislative session.

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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT: Marissa Morrison, Press Secretary
208-943-1686 or marissa.morrison@gov.idaho.gov

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