



House of Representatives State of Idaho

March 24, 2016

To: House Health and Welfare Committee

Dear Committee Members,

Over the past two years, I've learned a lot about the "gap" population. These are hard working folks who are looking for a hand up, not a hand out. They are our family, friends and neighbors. Idaho's current system of delivering medical services, including Medicaid, the CAT fund, state premium assistance, etc are not effective, efficient, or sustainable. I believe a reform of Idaho's Medicaid system to a managed Medicaid program in alignment with the Idaho State Healthy Initiative program, or "SHIP," is also in alignment with Idaho's values.

HB 644 and HCR 63 are not the best option available to provide medical coverage to the "gap population," those working Idahoans who are too poor to qualify for insurance premium assistance on the Idaho Health Exchange and yet, make too much to qualify for Idaho's Medicaid program through the Department of Health and Welfare.

As you know, HB 644 and HCR 63 were the only options available for my vote. Rather than finding the best policy to control spending while also supporting these hard working people, I choose "something over nothing." I still want to choose best policy.

I know that the debate over how to cover the gap have caused much searching of the heart and prayers over how to find the right thing to do. I greatly appreciate the hard work that our fellow representatives did to bring forward HB 644 and HCR 63. I applaud the work of the interim committee, and believe that they will move us to a good solution.

With great respect for our committee, I share with you my resolve to vote against any rule or any bill, which comes before the House Health and Welfare committee in 2017 (other than the waiver) regardless of its fiscal consequences, until a waiver is submitted to the full House for a vote.

If we must do this, then let's do it right.

With Respect,

Caroline Troy

Caroline Nilsson Troy, Representative
Latah and Benewah Counties

CC: House Majority Leadership
House Minority Leadership