



House of Representatives State of Idaho

March 24, 2016

To: House Health and Welfare Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I write this letter in agreement with my colleagues who share my concern regarding the intent to have an interim committee to study the "gap" population. I do not believe that House Bill 644 and HCR 63 best solve the many issues that this underserved population faces. This population is hard working and they try to help themselves. But, there are some things they cannot do and they need our help. I have had the opportunity to learn and study the issues that Idaho's "gap" population faces. Idaho's current system is not serving their needs and more must be done. Our committee has heard the testimony and listened to the public. We need to do more than the legislation put before our committee.

Our current system of Medicaid, the CAT fund, and state premium assistance is not meeting the needs of those who are too poor to qualify for insurance premium assistance on the Idaho Health Exchange and those who do not qualify for the state's stringent Medicaid program requirements. I believe that these programs are not sustainable or efficient and we need to move towards a managed care style program.

I voted for House Bill 644 and HCR 63, because there were no other options. It was not what I wanted to vote for. I wanted more and to do more for this population.

I have the upmost respect for all House Members who faced the challenge on how to vote on these bills. It was a struggle for many of us. I also respect the process of interim committees, but I am unwilling to let this disservice to our state continue. I do not believe that HCR will bring any real change and may slow down any forward action.

Therefore, I am submitting to this committee notice to reserve the right to vote against any rule or any bill, which comes before the House Health and Welfare Committee in 2017, regardless of its fiscal consequences, until a waiver, brought forth from the interim committee, is submitted to the full House for a vote.

It is time to take a stand and stand up for Idahoans in the "gap" population.

With Respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Romrell".

Representative Paul Romrell
District 35

CC: House Majority Leadership
House Minority Leadership