



February 22, 2022

Idaho Legislature
Senate Health and Welfare Committee
700 West Jefferson Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee:

The Idaho Hospital Association is writing in support of S1327. After many months of discussion and drafting by a broad group of stakeholders, including the IHA, the joint effort resulted in recommended changes to Title 66, Chapter 3. These changes address a priority recommendation of the Idaho Behavioral Health Council.

This legislation also addresses problems that were identified at the end of the 2021 Legislative Session with the passage of H316. As some in this committee will recall, there was a commitment to continue working on a solution to address gaps created by H316 for mental health services for indigent or uninsured patients. This legislation addresses those issues. S1327 restores a financial safety net for those patients who are being involuntarily held while going through the civil commitment process. The language results in greater consistency for those in the civil commitment process, defines when the state has financial responsibility in the cost of that commitment process, while also clearly stating the responsibility of the patient for costs associated with care.

The Idaho Hospital Association recognizes that S1327 is an important step in improving the civil commitments process and protecting the rights of Idaho residents. We respectfully ask that you pass S1327 out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Toni Lawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Toni Lawson
Vice President
Government Relations