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Press Release

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Democratic Leaders Call on Citizens to Preserve Voting Rights

Boise-Democratic legislative leaders called on Idahoans to help preserve our state's voting process at a press conference today in Boise. The leaders urged citizens to help stop <u>SB1108</u> which threatens the initiative/referendum process, a system of direct democracy upheld by past court rulings.

"This bill is part of a troubling trend that makes it easier for lawmakers and government officials to ignore the will of the people," said Senate Minority Leader Michelle Stennett of Ketchum.

SB1108 would weaken the process used just this past November by concerned parents and communities to overwhelmingly overturn the Luna Laws. In addition to revising the initiative/referendum process, legislators are attempting to resurrect Proposition 1 (the first of the three rejected Luna Laws). These actions stand in stark contrast to the will of the people.

"Last November, 370,000 Idahoans rejected the top-down education mandates commonly known as the Luna Laws," said Sen. Assistant Minority Leader Elliot Werk of Boise. "Idaho Democrats heard the message: Idahoans value their children's futures."

Along with the bill to limit initiative and referendum rights, the Legislature has ignored most of the bills in the Democratic-sponsored VOTE Initiative that seek to modernize and improve voter participation in our election system. In contrast, <u>HB176</u>, which would strip voting rights from citizens who are living overseas, has already been printed.

Idaho's Democratic lawmakers remain committed to putting families, small businesses and communities first with every legislative decision. Honoring the role of citizens in representative government is paramount in this commitment.

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