

Senator Dan Schmidt  
(208) 882-6328  
[dschmidt@senate.idaho.gov](mailto:dschmidt@senate.idaho.gov)



Representative John Rusche  
House Minority Leader  
(208) 750-6048  
[jrusche@house.idaho.gov](mailto:jrusche@house.idaho.gov)

## **Idaho Legislature**

Minority Office

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0081

### **Press Release**

---

For immediate release - Thursday, March 26, 2015

#### **Sen. Dan Schmidt, Rep. John Rusche call on Idaho GOP-Leaders to Save Idaho Tax Dollars and Adopt Medicaid Redesign**

**BOISE**— We are calling on Idaho GOP-leaders to help Idahoans and unleash the tax dollars that they are holding up by refusing to discuss Medicaid Redesign.

**What: Press Availability Regarding Urgent Need to Debate Medicaid Redesign**

**Where: Third Floor Capitol Rotunda**

**When: 12 p.m. (Or Upon Adjournment) TODAY, March 26th**

**Who: Rep. John Rusche (D-Lewiston) and Sen. Dan Schmidt (D-Moscow)**

The sands of this legislative session are running out. But as we wait, the Majority is engaged in an effort to pay for too many bills with too little money. One major promise that we all made at the beginning of the session was to bring education investment up. And while we are making progress, we still are behind the 2009 level and teachers are still leaving the State.

If Idaho redesigns our Medicaid program, it will mean that we can have real dollars added to Idaho's general fund. If we don't participate, that money, which Idahoans have paid in federal taxes, will fund the health care of people in other states. If we do expand coverage, that money will be a direct savings to Idaho counties to the tune of about \$30 M each year. Additionally, we will see our medical costs decline as fewer people use expensive emergency rooms for primary care. Finally, coverage expansion will save the lives of 450 Idahoans annually.

This funding will decrease the pressure on the general fund and make our education budget more manageable. Further, this funding frees county resources so that counties can redirect those dollars to local road and bridge projects.

It makes no sense for this Legislature to while away the remaining days without addressing this pressing issue in a common sense way. We recognize that some people in Idaho have passionate arguments against Medicaid Redesign.

March 26, 2015

Page 2

However, we embrace an open, productive debate. We have heard from our constituents, our communities and our businesses that they want us to take up Medicaid Redesign. They want our counties to save money and our state to save lives!

Let us have this debate. Let us pass Medicaid Redesign. This is win-win policy and it is high time that we do the right thing.

###

Contact: Shelby Scott, Chief of Staff House Minority:

208-331-1132  
sscott@house.idaho.gov