

**Kathy Sims, District 4
Representative
PO Box 399
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83816**



Rep. Kathy Sims



April 16, 2015

Greetings District 4!

The 2015 Legislative Session is over and I want to express my heartfelt thanks for your support.

Each year hundreds of bills are prepared and submitted as well as changes and corrections to existing Idaho code. I serve as a member of *State Affairs, Judiciary and Rules* and *Local Government* (co-chair). These committees have worked hard for you!

The Local Government Committee deals with all issues related to Urban Renewal Authority (URA's). A task force met weekly to deal with the abuses we've seen around the state regarding the misuse of this valuable economic development tool. We have created an Interim Committee which will further study ways to reign in some of the problems identified this session. We passed essential legislation to insure private property rights are not violated by restricting the use of eminent domain in the creation of trails, bike paths, etc. We also passed law that would require "expert analysis" by a third party before declaring a property "blighted" allowing that the property owner be given time to deal with the issues identified prior to eminent domain takings being executed.

Here are a few other highlights passing both Houses:

HB154A restricts chemical abortions from tele-medicine by requiring that a woman seeking that type of abortion see a doctor in person. This was supported by the Idaho Medical Association.

HB139 repealed an old law regarding jurisdiction in regards to "dueling".

S1011 repealed Historical Horse Racing as authorized by the Idaho Racing Commission in relation to "wagering". This was a very controversial bill, passed by both Houses and vetoed by the Governor.

HB126 allows for school districts to receive per student dollars based on the better of their mid-term or full term student numbers so schools experiencing enrollment growth will receive full funding for these students. This bill was passed by both House and Senate, but sadly was vetoed by the Governor.

S1146 allows for a limited affirmative defense for the possession and use of cannabidiol (CBD) oil for people suffering from epileptic seizures. To use this drug one must have a written recommendation from a doctor; must have it in a labeled container no larger than 32 oz.; be lab tested to contain less than .03% THC; and for a child, be in the possession of a parent or guardian and defined as cannabidiol oil. This bill has been vetoed by Gov. Otter.

State Employees received a 3% wage increase and the increases to medical insurance were absorbed by the state. The Education budget saw a 7.4% increase.

HB 312 is the Transportation Bill that was passed late in the night on the last day of session with no time given for taxpayer input. I voted against this bill because it increases the gas tax by 7 cents per gallon and raises registration and other fees when other options were available.

S 1067 did not pass but is a controversial bill that was held in committee. The committee did not vote to end Child Support Enforcement. Those laws are still in place. The committee chose to not allow additional international mandates without protections. Holding the bill was about protecting the due process and privacy rights of our citizens and assuring the integrity of our state's ability to study and evaluate issues independent of the coercive threats of the federal government. Courts in Idaho would be obligated to accept foreign orders with few exceptions. Implementing this bill would open federal databases in foreign countries. The committee wanted to add language to the bill to protect Idaho from enforcing objectionable foreign orders, but the federal government would not allow changes and uses intimidation to strong-arm approval of the bill. I cannot support any legislation that allows the federal government to use children as collateral to force its policies on Idaho and its sister states. So far, only 19 of 50 states have adopted this policy.

Thank you again for allowing me to represent you in Boise!

Esto Perpetua,

Kathy Sims

Representative Kathy Sims

Paid for by Kathy Sims