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Idaho Democratic Legislators Pledge to Repair Child Support Enforcement

Lewiston, Idaho—Today, Governor Otter acknowledged the self-inflicted problem to child support enforcement caused by Idaho House Republican lawmakers. Idaho Democratic legislators agree that a Special Session of the Legislature (scheduled for May 18) is necessary to address the disastrous consequences of killing S1067.

House Minority Leader Rep. John Rusche (D-Lewiston) said, "I'm glad the Governor recognizes the gravity of the situation. It really was unnecessary, the injury caused by the action of House Republicans in killing S1067."

By rejecting S1067, a small group of ill-informed Idaho Republican lawmakers rejected \$46 million in services for children and families and threatened hundreds of millions in child support payments.

"Calls from the many Idaho citizens to the Governor's office in support of the special session brought this about," Rusche added. "Now those same calls need to be directed at Republican House members and their leaders. Encourage them to come to Boise ready to pass the bill and stand up for Idaho's most vulnerable children."

There are few second chances in politics. This is one. This Special Session can bring this sad chapter to an end and protect the 155,000 children dependent on child support enforcement for food, clothing, and shelter.

While we can repair the child support system, the supposedly conservative House members and their paranoia will have cost the state tens of thousands of dollars for this emergency session and will have inflicted another hit on Idaho's image.

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