

Press Release

For Immediate Release - Monday, May 18, 2015

Idaho Democratic Legislators Vote to Protect Kids

BOISE - The Idaho House Democratic legislators voted again today to protect Idaho families and children today by supporting House Bill 1. “It is our duty to stand up for Idaho families and children,” said Idaho House Minority Leader Rep. John Rusche (D-Lewiston). “We did that today.”

According to the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, 416,000 Idahoans, 183,000 of them children, depend on this program. These are our friends and neighbors. Twenty-eight percent, over 1 in 4 Idaho children rely on Child Support Services. Parents should be held accountable and responsible for their children’s well-being.

Despite the vote that preserves Idaho’s child support enforcement system, there remained members of the Legislature who opposed this crucial support for vulnerable children.

“Do we want those children to go hungry? Are we OK with these families not surviving and being forced to go on state services, a further burden on our tax dollars? How do we help parents be responsible for their children without this program, without another alternative in place?” said Idaho Senate Minority Leader Senator Michelle Stennett (D-Ketchum).

“It is troubling that so many members of Idaho’s Legislature are making public policy decisions based on vague fears and poor information,” Rusche said. “Those values are out of line with those of Idaho families and they continue to harm the ability of this body to pass reasonable, responsible legislation that puts families, businesses and communities first.”

It is a travesty that the majority’s leaders failed to take swift action a month ago, before Idaho taxpayers were forced to pay \$40,000 for a special session and make families who need child support live in fear.

Idaho Democratic legislators are committed to making policies that are in the best interest of everyday Idahoans. Now that the legislative session has ended, again, you can depend on finding us out in our communities listening to our constituents and preparing for next year. We have heard your voices and we already know that people want us to continue investing in education, doing a better job of addressing our transportation shortfall, and making our state more prosperous for businesses, large and small.

Senator Stennett states, “I choose Idahoans, our children, our friends and neighbors, over fear.”

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