

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The 2015 Idaho legislature has adjourned *sine die* (Latin for “Time to be done”). As your District 15 legislators we would like to give you a brief report on the session highlights.

Education – The big issue this session was education funding. We increased K-12 funding by 7.4%, including more money for the classroom and teachers. After several tries, **HB 296** was passed creating a new teacher career ladder with a 5 year \$125 million dollar investment in teacher salaries. We are excited that the final product was with approval of all major stake holders including the Idaho Education Association, Idaho School Boards Association and State Department of Education plus others. The legislature also addressed concerns over bullying in school with **HB 246** to provide better staff training and intervention procedures.

Health Care -- “The Idaho Telehealth Access Act” **HB189** improves physicians’ ability to provide distance medical care particularly to rural areas, while protecting the unborn from remote abortions. The “Idaho Direct Primary Care Act” **SB1062** sponsored by Rep. Luker authorizes an alternate model for patients to receive low cost, personal primary medical and dental care based upon a low monthly fee rather than fee for service. Service includes convenient in person, phone and email consultation without insurance company involvement. Most DPC contracts include discount lab, pharmacy and other services. Costs are lower due to the elimination of expensive insurance and government related paperwork – Medical care like it used to be – just the patient and the physician. Also, **HB75** removed the sales tax from eyeglasses this year and contacts next year similar to other medical prescriptions.

Transportation -

Criminal Justice Reform – Efforts continued this year to improve criminal sentencing outcomes, and reduce costs through implementation of the “Criminal Justice Reinvestment Act of 2014.” According to the Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court the Act is the most important reform in Idaho in the last 35 years. Additionally, Rep. Luker successfully sponsored 6 bills directed at reclassifying a number of misdemeanors to infractions as part of the Public Defense Reform effort and better fitting penalties to the crime.

"Fee for Service" to a "Care Management"

This will save millions of dollar and greatly improve health care services. Insisted of just paying for service, we will pay to manage the service or care. Idaho State Healthcare Innovation Plan (SHIP) program.

Primacy DEO from EPA

Primacy of surface water by 2016

Idaho Statesman January 26, 2015

Idaho collects the second-lowest dollar amount of taxes per citizen in the nation, stated the Idaho Center for Fiscal Policy, and the lowest among all 11 Western states.

Better Economy

I have worked with the Commerce Department and voted for H 546, the Tax Reimbursement Incentive to bring high-paying jobs to Idaho, and H 100 the Idaho Opportunity. Fund to recruit and retain business in Idaho. Skywest and Amy's Kitchen

Better Schools

5 1377 (2014) which states: "Each school district may adopt their own curriculum material." We need to have more of our students go on to college or post secondary schools. That's why I voted for S 1233 the Mastery Advancement Scholarship for high school juniors and seniors for dual credit.

Idaho Statesman Jan 31, 2015

Idaho high school students applied for 61,938 college credits at state expense just in the fall semester of 2014, after the state began offering to pay \$200 for juniors and \$400 for seniors for such courses. It is achieving phenomenal success.

Food Stamps usage in Idaho has gone down since 2012 by 150/o (34,427)

In Idaho we are working to go from a "Fee for Service" to a "Care Management". Post Register January 25, 2015
Since the state opened its own health care exchange, claims on the CAT fund have dropped significantly, Bonneville County Commissioner Roger Christensen told the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee. Christensen is chairman of the board that oversees the CAT Fund.

SB1101 Medically Indigency and State Catastrophic Health saving the State of Idaho 11 Million and the Counties 5 Million