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C. L. "Butch" Otter Governor

Debra Parsons Chair

Christine Pisani Executive Director February 20, 2017

Senator Lee Heider, Chairman Senate Health and Welfare Committee Statehouse Boise, ID 83720

RE: HB 43 Medicaid Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance

Chairman Heider and Committee Members:

The Council on Developmental Disabilities is authorized by federal and state law to monitor systems and policies and to advocate for improved and enhanced services that enable Idahoans with developmental disabilities to live meaningful lives, included in their communities. The Council is comprised of 23 volunteers appointed by the Governor.

The Council applauds the Department of Health and Welfare for ensuring quality outcomes are more likely achieved for children with SED through the services this legislation will provide. The Council supports House Bill 43 as the expansion of services to children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) will significantly improve health, education, employability, and quality of life outcomes for children who experience SED.

Christine Pisani Executive Director