



House of Representatives

STATE OF IDAHO

CAPITOL BUILDING

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, ID 83720-0038

Dear Representative Cannon and Senator Wintrow,


March 22, 2023

Death investigations are a critical public function, but coroners' offices across the state are facing challenges related to funding, staffing, training, and lack of uniform standards. A growing population and recent high profile crimes across the state highlight the importance of quality death investigations is further stressing Idaho's fragmented and inconsistent approach. Improving the quality of death investigations in Idaho could help us solve crimes, better understand public health issues like suicide and substance abuse, and provide families with necessary closure following the death of a loved one.

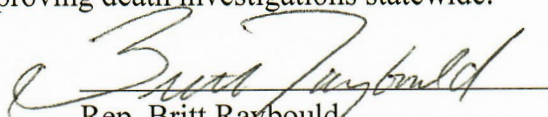
In an effort to better understand the issues facing Idaho's death investigation system we request the Office of Performance Evaluation investigate the issue and provide information and make recommendations based on the following questions:

1. How would you evaluate the state of Idaho's death investigation system?
2. What is the current role of the state government in regulating county coroners and death investigations?
3. Are our statewide standards for death investigations, death investigators, and county coroner's sufficient?
4. What financial challenges do counties and their coroners face related to death investigations?
5. How could the quality of Idaho's death investigation system be improved and what role could the state play in this?

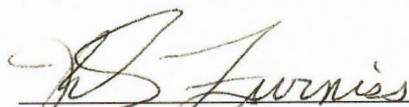
A report from OPE answering these questions could educate the stakeholders on the issues surrounding Idaho's death investigation system and help inform policy decisions for how state government can assist counties in improving death investigations statewide.



Rep. Colin Nash



Rep. Britt Raybould



Rep. Rod Furniss