



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

April 20, 2009

The Honorable Lawrence Denney  
Speaker of the House  
Idaho House of Representatives  
Legislative Annex  
Boise, ID 83720

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I hereby advise you that I have returned without my approval, disapproved and vetoed, the following House Bill, to wit:

**H0245**

within the time limited by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 11:25 a.m. on April 17, 2009.

House Bill 245 seeks to establish a Parents as Teachers Program under the Idaho Children's Trust Fund. It would authorize the Children's Trust Fund to pursue grants and other sources of funding to support the program. However, while proposed as a privately funded effort initially, this legislation runs the substantial risk of creating public expectations of new or expanded state government services.

What's more, a similar effort already exists within the Family Advocate Program. The proposed new program would be competing with that existing effort for private donations, grants and gifts – potentially undermining and diluting the effectiveness of both efforts.

The original Parents as Teachers program initially was funded by a federal grant. However, there was a hue and cry from some of the program's well-intentioned advocates for Idaho taxpayers to pick up the tab once the federal money ran out. I am determined that we not repeat such an experience.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C.L. Butch Otter".

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho