

**Merrill Beyeler**

**COMMITTEES**

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## House of Representatives State of Idaho

March 24, 2016

To: House Health and Welfare Committee

Dear Committee Members,

During my time at the legislature and serving on the Health and Welfare committee, I have had the opportunity to learn much about our 78,000 Idahoans considered part of the gap population. These individuals are stuck in an impossible situation. They do not qualify for Idaho's Medicaid program nor do they qualify for assistance for the insurance premium help on the Idaho Health Exchange. Coming from a rural part of the state, options are few for those who live in this gap.

I do not believe that our current system of Medicaid, the CAT fund, and state premium assistance is truly helping this population. Any health crisis could potentially cause financial ruin, not to mention the lack of access to care when they are unable to pay. Access to subsidized health care is even more limited in rural Idaho. I do not feel that H644 and HCR 63 are the best option for those I represent or the rest of Idaho. I voted for these bills, but it not what I wanted. I wanted to accomplish and do more this session to help our gap population.

I know that many of my colleagues have struggled with how to best serve the underserved in Idaho. We have many different ideas and principles. I respect my fellow members and appreciate the work they do, but I need to take a stand. I voted for House Bill 644 and HCR 63, because there were no other options. As it stands, I do not trust that we will accomplish the needed change with the compromise bills this session.

With great respect to the committee, I serve notice to reserve the right to vote against any rule or any bill, which comes before the House Health and Welfare Committee in 2017, regardless of its fiscal consequences, until a waiver, brought forth from the interim committee, is submitted to the full House for a vote.

With Respect,

Merrill Beyeler  
District 8

CC: House Majority Leadership  
House Minority Leadership