



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

March 27, 2020

The Honorable Janice McGeachin
President of the Senate
Idaho State Senate
Statehouse Mail

Dear Madam President:

I hereby advise you that I have vetoed on March 27, 2020, and as the legislature has adjourned am transmitting to the Secretary of State the following Senate Bill, to wit:

S 1295

I vetoed S 1295 because Idaho has a strong framework for safe telehealth access outlined in Chapter 57, Title 54, Idaho Code, known as the Idaho Telehealth Access Act. The Act provides health professional licensing boards with the authority to promulgate necessary rules relating to telehealth services. There are components of S 1295 that may enhance the safety of teledentistry services, and I will direct the Board of Dentistry to consider the necessity of such safeguards as they re-promulgate their administrative rules as outlined in Executive Order 2020-01.

While telehealth has generally been thought of as a solution for rural Idahoans, emergencies such as the current 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic demonstrate the potential for telehealth to serve as a tool to triage patients and maintain access to care while traditional venues close or limit their scope to emergent care. Indeed, the federal government and other states are currently taking unprecedented steps to remove barriers to telehealth access during this public health emergency to increase the capacity of the health care system. Having safeguards in rule allows a flexible framework for updating such requirements over time and enables their quick reconsideration, as appropriate, during public health emergencies like the one we currently face.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho

cc: Secretary of State