

February 27, 2024

Senate Judiciary & Rules Committee Idaho State Senate

Dear Senators:

I write to express my support for **\$1307** and **\$1309**, two bills which will be heard by you on February 28, 2024, and I urge you to give these two bills your favorable consideration.

My support for this legislation stems from my constant and long-term pro-life commitment. For Idaho women dealing with a crisis pregnancy, adoption should be a viable option. We should do everything possible to encourage women to choose life for their unborn children. Our goal should be to remove obstacles that stand in the way of that choice, and both of these bills move us closer to that goal.

S1307, which tightens Idaho's restrictions on unlicensed adoption facilitators, will ensure that birth mothers will be better protected from unscrupulous parties who may approach them and try to influence their decision to adopt. **S1309** will allow a birth mother who chooses adoption for her unborn child to receive increased financial support for necessary expenses she may incur.

I am aware that there may be other bills proposed this session dealing with adoption. To the extent that they make adoption a more viable option for birth mothers, I support those efforts.

Again, I ask that you support S1307 and S1309 when they come before you for your consideration. Idaho could become a leader in innovative and comprehensive reforms to our adoption laws – reforms that honor the needs not only of the adoptive parents, but also of the birth mothers who make the adoptions possible in the first place.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Scott Bedke

Lieutenant Governor