



IDAHO COUNCIL ON
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

Brad Little, Governor
Carly Saxe, Chair
Christine Pisani, Executive Director

February 19, 2026

Chairman VanOrden
Senate Health and Welfare Committee
Statehouse
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Chairman VanOrden and Members of the Committee:

The Council on Developmental Disabilities serves as an independent advisor to the Governor and the Idaho Legislature on public policy issues that impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families through the federal Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act (Public Law 106-402).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 1314.

The board of health and welfare was created to advise the director and the governor on department fiscal, policy and administrative matters; review and advise the director regarding the department's strategic plan and performance measures; develop goals and standards to measure department efficiency and effectiveness; and review and advise the director and the governor on department initiatives. The board members included those with working knowledge in health and social services, business and finance, legislators, the director of IDHW, representative from the office of the governor, and a member of the public.

Regional Behavioral Health boards were created to advise on local behavior health needs within regions and the problems and progress of services. These boards included people from each region with the knowledge, expertise, and lived experience to advise on these services.

By eliminating these boards, the state will lose knowledge and history of what has and hasn't worked within services. We would lose consistency in the direction and reasoning behind services, follow-through on implementation of the strategic plan, and overall vision of services provided by the Department of Health and Welfare.

We appreciate your time in reviewing the Council's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pisani".

Christine Pisani
Executive Director
Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities