



March 4, 2026

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee,

On behalf of community hospitals around the state of Idaho, we ask that you vote “no” on S1346, legislation to establish a moratorium on the administration of human gene therapy products for children and pregnant women.

This legislation denies individuals access to treatment options that they choose for a variety of conditions. As drafted, S1346 includes exceptions for therapies for treatment of cancer or genetic disorders, but it fails to exclude treatment for things like severe burns and Type 1 diabetes.

Because of the emergency clause included in S1346, passage would allow no advance notification or time to adapt a treatment plan after the prohibition of important treatment options for patients. A patient in the middle of a treatment plan determined by patient and their medical provider to be appropriate, should not have to suddenly stop that treatment with no warning. This sudden change in treatment could negatively impact patient outcomes. If the government is going to deny patients their chosen treatment, there should at least be time for patients and medical professionals to find alternative treatment options.

S1346 also puts the Idaho Legislature in the inappropriate role of the FDA to determine if a specific gene therapy product is safe despite a lack of identified criteria, medical expertise, or scientific research experience.

If human gene therapy products are safe enough for cancer treatment and genetic disorders, why not other uses? The Idaho Legislature has frequently expressed support for medical freedom but this legislation flies in the face of Idahoans’ freedom to choose appropriate treatment options for their own situation.

Idahoans can choose whether or not to use human gene therapy products for their own medical treatment. The Idaho Legislature should not deny that choice to citizens who determine gene therapy products are appropriate for them.

Please keep S1346 in committee. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Toni Lawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Toni Lawson
Chief Advocacy Officer