



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR
March 26, 2018

The Honorable Scott Bedke
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I hereby advise you that I have returned without my approval, disapproved and vetoed, the following House Bill, to wit:

H501

within the time limited by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 9:25 a.m. on March 21, 2018.

Accountability for student outcomes is a hallmark of the career ladder for teacher pay approved by the 2015 Legislature. A teacher's movement on the ladder is based on performance criteria, specifically that a majority of students show measurable achievement. The statute allows local school districts to choose from among 12 student achievement and growth measures to determine movement on the career ladder. One of those options is the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI).

H501 is based on the contention that the IRI is a reading skills "screener" and should not be used as a measure of student achievement or growth. It was decided this session to replace the IRI with a more comprehensive assessment. However, even the existing IRI is a valid measure of student growth from fall to spring. Reading proficiency in kindergarten through third grade is a critical metric of student progress and teacher accountability. It should not be stricken from teachers' opportunities for movement on the career ladder.

With the fiscal 2019 appropriations set, Idaho will have invested more than 75 percent of the \$250 million earmarked for teacher pay based on the career ladder. We must continue allowing accountability to work.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter".

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho