



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

March 28, 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:

H566a

within the time limited by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 5:18 p.m. on March 22, 2018.

Effective teachers are the biggest factor in determining student achievement. However, strong school leaders are essential to fostering and supporting effective teachers. Idaho needs administrators in all public schools, including charter schools, who are not merely building managers or finance officers but also instructional leaders who can establish a positive school climate and nurture collaboration among educators. Asking educators to follow a leader who shares neither experience nor educational preparation in the field undervalues the teaching profession.

H566a would bifurcate standards for school administrators – one left entirely up to local discretion for charter schools and the other setting minimum statewide requirements for all other Idaho public schools. I have long supported charter schools and school choice and have championed local flexibility in hiring. But to ensure consistency and equity, that flexibility typically includes an expectation that new hires are at least working toward achieving statewide standards.

As we do with the teacher certification process, when we hire school administrators they should be employed on an interim basis and be working toward completion of a certificate that meets the minimum administrator standards. This will ensure that all public school students benefit from prepared, qualified administrators. To do less is at odds with the State's obligation under Section 1, Article IX, of the Idaho Constitution to "establish and maintain a general, uniform and thorough system of public, free common schools."

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I encourage legislators to work with stakeholders and our education agencies to establish an interim certification process and a defined pathway to certification for administrator candidates to work effectively in any of our public schools.

As Always – Idaho, “Esto Perpetua”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "C.L." written in a smaller, more compact style than the last name "Otter".

CLO/mlw

C.L. “Butch” Otter
Governor of Idaho