

Senator Mark Harris

Majority Caucus Chair



Idaho Senate Republicans Statement on House Bill 675

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2022

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BOISE, IDAHO - The Idaho State Senate Majority Caucus strongly opposes any and all gender reassignment and surgical manipulation of the natural sex of minors. HB 675 undermines parental rights and allows the government to interfere in parents' medical decision-making authority for their children. We believe in parents' rights and that the best decisions regarding medical treatment options for children are made by parents, with the benefit of their physician's advice and expertise.

It is against medical advice in Idaho and is counterindicated by the Idaho Medical Association (IMA). Among other provisions, HB 675 outlaws gender-affirming surgery for transgender minors; and the IMA has confirmed that this is "already outside the generally accepted standard of care and is not being done by physicians in Idaho."

The bill's language in its current form could be interpreted to extend into the realm of medically necessary care for kids that is in no way related to transgender therapy, but serves children with highly specialized medical needs. The bill worked to carve out this area of care, unfortunately it falls short by limiting it to verifiable genetic disorders. Since many of these acute medical conditions cannot always be verified as a genetic disorder or done so in a timely manner, the proposal has unintended consequences.

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The Idaho Senate Majority Caucus is led by President Pro Tempore, Senator Chuck Winder representing District 20; Majority Leader, Senator Kelly Anthon representing District 27; Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Abby Lee representing District 9; and, Majority Caucus Chair, Senator Mark Harris, representing District 32.