



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 4, 2019

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**Close the Gap Idaho Decries Flagrant Disregard of Constituent
Concerns,
*Calls on Senate to Reject House-Amended Bill***

BOISE, ID –Today the House added multiple expensive provisions to SB1204aa, including a work requirement that would take coverage away from Idahoans who fail to meet it or can't prove they are working or exempt. These amendments come after consistent public opposition to work reporting requirements, and despite the fact that work reporting requirements were deemed illegal in federal court just last week. See Close the Gap Idaho's [factsheet about the recent legal decision here](#).

In over 10 hours of nearly unanimous testimony, Idahoans have expressed their opposition to costly work reporting requirements. In a flagrant disregard of both the will of the people and the input shared at these hearings by constituents, the House today amended Senate Bill 1204aa, to add even more punitive work-reporting requirements that will remove eligible Idahoans from health insurance.

“Kicking people off health coverage goes against the central tenet of Medicaid. By law, a state cannot make work a condition of accessing health coverage,” said Liz Woodruff, Assistant Director of Idaho Voices for Children. “There is no ‘fix’ to a work-reporting requirement. No amount of exemptions or changes to timelines will make this provision immune to legal action,” Woodruff concluded.

No fiscal note has been provided for the House-amended bill. The cost of the previous version, SB1204a, surpassed \$4 million, according to budget analysis. No analysis has been conducted to assess the actual administrative burden of kicking people off coverage. The bill no longer has a provision for any work training or education.

“This amended House bill ignores the will of the voters and blatantly disregards the concerns of the public without any fair accounting of the fiscal and administrative

impacts of the legislation,” said Caroline Merritt of Close the Gap Idaho. “It is incumbent upon the Senate to reject this irresponsible legislation,” Merritt finished.

After Proposition 2 passed with more than 61% of the vote, a poll conducted in late-February found that [74% of Idahoans feel the Legislature should implement the law as it was passed by the voters](#), while only 17% say the law should be changed.

About Close the Gap Idaho: Close the Gap Idaho is a network of over 300 organizations and individuals statewide, working to support a complete solution to the coverage gap and to preserve health coverage for Idahoans. Close the Gap Idaho has led the effort to expand Medicaid in Idaho since 2014. A list of Close the Gap Idaho steering committee members can be found on the [Close the Gap Idaho website](#). Quotes from additional member organizations and Idahoans in the gap are shared below.

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