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Close the Gap Idaho Honors Senator Fred Martin with a 2019 Health Care Champion Award

BOISE, ID – On Friday, June 28th Close the Gap Idaho, a network of health care stakeholders and thousands of individuals statewide focused on supporting Medicaid expansion in Idaho, held a Health Care Advocates Reception at the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry where Senator Fred Martin was presented with its 2019 Health Care Champion Award by Toni Lawson, Vice President of Government Relations for Idaho Hospital Association. Senator Martin (R, District 15) was chosen as the recipient of this award for his dedication to Medicaid expansion and upholding the will of Idaho voters throughout the 2019 Legislative Session.

“It was an honor to present Senator Martin with the 2019 Health Care Champion award for his work this legislative session,” said Toni Lawson. “He has grown to be a strong voice for Medicaid expansion, his constituents, and Idahoans in the gap who look forward to finally having access to health coverage in the coming year. His integrity and perseverance deserve to be applauded.”

As Senate Health and Welfare chairman, Senator Martin was a vocal leader in the Idaho Senate against work reporting requirements and played a key role in the defeat of these bills in his committee. This included a vote from the committee, in the final days of session, to "not concur" with the harmful House amendments added to the Senate Bill 1204a.

The time and effort Senator Martin gave to this issue and the integrity he brought to lifting up the facts about the policies under consideration is deeply appreciated.

“Thank you for this great honor. Close the Gap has worked hard for the citizens of Idaho.” Senator Fred Martin stated in response to receiving the award “It was a privilege to represent Idaho voters on this critical issue. It was simply the right thing to do for our state and Idahoans in the gap.”

About Close the Gap Idaho: Close the Gap Idaho is a network of thousands of 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](#).

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