



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Brad Little
Governor
Office of the Governor
700 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Boise, ID 83702

Sent Via Email

Governor Little:

I write this letter to urge your veto of Engrossed House Bill 242 (EHB 242), a bill that will most certainly have many unacceptable consequences that cannot be cured.

Among the harmful impacts that this legislation will have, particularly when combined with Idaho's recently passed abortion bans, are the exodus of some healthcare professionals from your state as well as the certain resulting increased mortality rate of Idahoan women and girls.

I question the constitutionality of this law and I know you are aware of the costly legal challenges that await should you choose to sign this bill, but, as the governor of a neighboring state, I am also deeply concerned about the impacts that EHB 242 will have on Washington residents traveling to and from Idaho. I fear that our residents, in particular the women and girls of Washington, will be in grave danger if they travel to your state and find themselves in need of urgent reproductive health care services. This bill would also attempt to punish some Washington residents who happen to be in your state for any length of time, a gross abuse of their right to travel between our states. As a result, all Washingtonians have a stake in this matter.

Regardless of your decision on this bill, we welcome Idaho's patients and health care providers with open arms in Washington. And, as we did during COVID, we will care for your residents in a manner consistent with their health care needs as determined by trained medical professionals, not politicians. But, make no mistake, Governor Little, the laws of another state that seek to punish anyone in Washington for lawful actions taken in Washington will not stand. We will protect our providers, and we will harbor and comfort your residents who seek health care services that are denied to them in Idaho.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Jay Inslee
Governor

cc: Zach Hauge, Chief of Staff, State of Idaho, zach.hauge@gov.idaho.gov