



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

February 9, 2016

The Honorable Brent Hill
Senate President Pro Tempore
700 W. Jefferson
Boise, ID 83720

The Honorable Scott Bedke
Speaker of the House
700 W. Jefferson
Boise, ID 83720

Dear President Pro Tem and Mr. Speaker,

The Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk formed the Idaho Child Fatality Review Team, under Executive Order 2012-03, to review deaths of children under the age of 18. Its charge is to identify common links or circumstances in these deaths in order to provide recommendations that may help prevent similar tragedies.

The review team reported its findings in April 2015, including an analysis of two deaths related to refusal of medical care because of religious or personal beliefs. However, interest in the issue has grown in the past few months and further review may be needed.

I understand it is a challenge to balance the desire to protect children while still being supportive of religious freedom, but I believe we must give this issue a thorough examination. I am therefore asking that you consider convening a legislative workgroup to assess the Child Fatality Review Team's report along with other sources of research and testimony regarding this policy issue.

Thank you for your consideration and I am happy to help you in any way I can with this process.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter".
C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

CLO/tp