



IDAHO FREEDOM FOUNDATION

The Honorable Brad Little
Governor of Idaho
PO Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720

March 17, 2020

Dear Governor Little,

The cause of liberty doesn't stop in a crisis: Indeed, ensuring our state's backbone of free enterprise and individual liberty stays strong is key to helping those hurt by COVID-19, and minimizing the damage.

The purpose of this letter is to encourage you to employ free market, conservative principles for solutions during this critical period. When many other states turn to state control, Idaho should lead by embracing more private, voluntary solutions. Too often, a crisis is used to expand government control, and that is always to our detriment.

Idaho Code 48-1001 provides you wide latitude to hold in abeyance those regulations and statutes that "prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with [an] emergency." Thus, I write today to provide some suggestions to help Idahoans better cope with the COVID-19 crisis. Below are potential actions you could take.

- Suspend occupational licensure requirements for continuing education and provide an extension for occupational licenses that will expire in the next 90 days.
- Suspend additional occupational licensure requirements that may inadvertently be harmful to public safety. For example, state law limits cosmetology to licensed facilities, while one might argue that a home-care option would be safer and more practical given existing circumstances.
- Provide an extension for the filing of Idaho income taxes, and similarly allow retailers additional time for the remittance of sales taxes.
- Remove restrictions on the ability of out-of-state medical practitioners to work in Idaho or provide consultations to Idahoans, either in person or via telehealth technology.
- Remove any "scope of practice" and other restrictions or requirements that limit which medical practitioners can test or treat for COVID-19.
- Remove statutory restrictions on delivery devices, allowing the greater use of

drones, robotics, and other innovative technologies for completing deliveries.

- Allow Idaho public school students to receive credit in their courses if they demonstrate that during a school closure, they still obtained competency in a subject area in which they were enrolled.
- Consider a sales tax holiday, to encourage consumer spending.
- Re-allocate local government public transportation spending so that it can be used for private rideshare options.
- Require government agencies and entities to conduct public meetings via interactive remote technology to allow Idahoans the opportunity to engage with their public servants.
- Direct the Idaho State Police and local law enforcement personnel to concentrate their efforts on crimes in which property or persons are damaged or injured, rather than minor victimless infractions.
- Look to release non-violent offenders in the state's prison system and county jails. This should include state and county inmates who have no history of violent behavior and those awaiting trial. In the state prison system, it could include inmates who have served the fixed portion of their sentences without incurring reprimands for disciplinary problems.

Of course, this is not a comprehensive list. You may find other opportunities to help Idahoans by reducing and eliminating government red tape. For example, the Trump administration has provided significant flexibility to states regarding the administration of federal programs such as Medicaid. Additionally, the Trump administration announced today that it is allowing states to take responsibility for tests developed and used by laboratories in their borders. I encourage you to take advantage of the flexibility offered by President Trump and his agencies.

Finally, I encourage you to ask for the assistance of the many businesses, churches, non-profit groups, and other organizations that have been preparing for emergencies for years. They can more easily fill gaps with regards to food security, transportation assistance, and debt payment forgiveness. As you well know, the private actions of individuals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations can provide substantial relief and help to our neighbors in times like these.

If you need something, please ask. We are all in this together.

Yours for Freedom,



Wayne Hoffman
President