

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 126

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND SUPPORTING A COLLABORATION AMONG THE THREE BRANCHES OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN TO IMPROVE THE IDAHO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, tremendous social and economic value will inure to the people of Idaho with the strategic development of a more effective behavioral health system that is devised, implemented, and sustained statewide; and

WHEREAS, all three branches of the state government, local governments, and community partners play an integral role in ensuring a reliable and productive behavioral health system for the people of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, behavioral health issues, consisting of mental health and substance use disorders, are currently both chronic and pervasive, detrimentally affecting a significant and growing portion of Idaho's population, as well as the economy of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, Idaho has demonstrated a commitment to improving the behavioral health system and has previously made considerable improvements to the system; and

WHEREAS, despite the state having already invested significant resources to meet behavioral health needs, the behavioral health system continues to require a more coordinated, integrated, and collaborative structure; and

WHEREAS, an organized and strategic response, developed and implemented collaboratively, provides an unprecedented opportunity for continued improvement and sustained access to effective behavioral health outcomes for Idahoans and a better return on the investment of public resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that we support and encourage a collaboration among all three branches of the state government, local governments, and community partners to develop and implement a statewide strategic plan to inventory, assess, and materially improve the Idaho behavioral health system to the benefit of all Idahoans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to effectuate this statewide strategic plan, the Legislature endorses and supports the creation of a Behavioral Health Council by the Honorable Brad Little, Governor of the State of Idaho.