



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Workforce Development Council Mission Continues

Idaho's new Governor Brad Little is fully supporting the year-old **Workforce Development Council** (WDC) under the jurisdiction of his office. IACI Board member Trent Clark will continue as its chairman, and Wendi Secrist will continue as its executive director to continue its mission to *"Develop and implement a statewide strategic workforce development plan that meets industry's needs today and tomorrow."*

We encourage IACI members to attend a WDC **meet-and-greet** on Wednesday, **February 13**, at **3:00pm** in the Capitol Building, Room EW20, for an informal opportunity to learn more about the great progress the WDC has already made during its first year. Excellent new [Legislative Priorities](#) have been approved with partner agencies, and the WDC will begin a more formal strategic planning process this April as well.

As workforce development is a critical priority for IACI, we encourage IACI members to learn more about the important work of the WDC and how your organization can benefit from the new coordination of training programs to meet the need for qualified employees. Visit the [WDC website!](#)



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Idaho Supreme Court Reviews Medicaid Expansion

On Tuesday the Idaho Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a lawsuit filed against the State, which challenges the constitutionality of the voter-approved Proposition 2 to expand Medicaid to additional Idahoans. The premise of the case is that the initiative is unconstitutional because it delegates authority to the federal government and the state Department of Health & Welfare.



The Idaho attorney general's office defended the statute, indicating that the lawsuit does not delegate authority to the federal government and any work done by Health & Welfare is consistent with established law.

Voters authorized Medicaid expansion in November 2018 after the Idaho Legislature was repeatedly unsuccessful in resolving the coverage issue for the "gap population" not eligible for Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. The initiative would provide access to preventative health care services for about 62,000 low-income Idaho residents. The federal government will pay for 90% of the estimated \$400 million cost, and Governor Brad Little has included Idaho's 10% share of the cost in his budget. The legislature will not introduce legislation to enact the law and appropriate the funds until after the Court rules, but there is currently no indication when that ruling will come forward.

Governor's Plan to Reduce Idaho Regulatory Burdens

Governor Brad Little signed two new executive orders yesterday focused on reducing regulatory burdens in the state. IACI is supportive of the Governor's efforts to streamline government for Idaho businesses and citizens.

[Executive Order 2019-02](#), the "**Red Tape Reduction Act**," requires state agencies with authority to issue administrative rules to identify at least two existing rules to be repealed or significantly simplified for every one rule they propose. Governor Little said in the executive order, "Excessive regulation at all levels of government can impose high costs on businesses, inhibit job growth, and impede private sector investment." The Order also requires agencies to submit a business/competitiveness impact statement that identifies the impact any proposed rule will have on individuals and small businesses.

Governor Little also signed [Executive Order 2019-01](#), the "**Licensing Freedom Act of 2019**." The Order institutes sunrise and sunset processes for future occupational licensing laws. The recommendations came from his own report when he was Lieutenant Governor in 2018 that

outlines the scope of occupational licensing in Idaho. The report identified 241 recommendations for improvement, modification, or elimination of licensing requirements or other regulatory burdens.



Idaho Association of Commerce & Industry
816 W. Bannock St, Suite 5B | P.O. Box 389 | Boise, ID 83701
Phone (208) 343-1849 | www.iaci.org | www.idahoprosperty.org

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