



**BRAD LITTLE**  
GOVERNOR

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Mike Moyle  
Speaker of the House  
Idaho House of Representatives  
Hand Delivery

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I hereby advise you that I have returned without my approval, disapproved, and vetoed, the following House Bill, to wit:

HOUSE BILL 314aaS

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 2:05 p.m. on March 31, 2023.

The ability to read is fundamental to a child's success. Many of our fondest memories as children are venturing down to our local library and immersing ourselves in the sea of books and knowledge. As Governor, I have made investing in literacy a priority, and our local and school libraries are a critical component of ensuring our Idaho kids have the resources they need to be successful readers and lifelong learners.

My main concern is that the bill's ambiguity will have unintended consequences for Idaho libraries and their patrons. This legislation makes sweeping, blanket assumptions on materials that could be determined as "harmful to minors" in a local library, and it will force one interpretation of that phrase onto all the patrons of the library. Allowing any parent, regardless of intention, to collect \$2,500 in automatic fines creates a library bounty system that will only increase the costs local libraries incur, particularly rural libraries. These costs will be forced onto property taxpayers of Idaho or cause the libraries to close to minors altogether.

I support the sponsors' intent of this bill to keep truly inappropriate materials out of the hands of minors. This is an effort I know everyone in the Idaho Legislature supports. However, I am also concerned that harmful content can be much more easily accessible to youth on their phones and the internet, not at their libraries. I encourage all Idahoans who have questions about any library materials to become familiar with the local policies of their duly elected library or school trustee board and engage directly with the officials who oversee them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little  
Governor of Idaho