

Idaho's poor and vulnerable still need the state's care

As the economy worsens and personal budgets become tighter, working families need continued access to many of the programs to which cuts are being proposed. This is particularly the case of those families who have members with developmental disabilities.

Persons with developmental disabilities require individually planned and coordinated services and supports (e.g. housing, employment, education, civil and human rights protection, health care) from many providers in order to live a productive life in the community. Without these appropriate services and supports, a person's ability to live a full, dignified and productive life is severely compromised.

Gov. Butch Otter has commended the citizens of Idaho for recognizing opportunities to help our neighbors in need. We must take into account that not all of our neighbors are able to care for themselves. They need and deserve access to the appropriate medical and behavioral services in order to survive and thrive. They cannot wait until the economy is stronger. I urge all lawmakers to take every opportunity to preserve funding for services that help poor and vulnerable people throughout the state. Please support your legislators in their efforts to ensure adequate and affordable health care for our neighbors in need.

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