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House of Representatives State of Idaho

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

September 8, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I appreciate your concern about whether or not the state legislature should reconvene to address the issues around vaccinations and whether or not private businesses should be allowed to require vaccinations as a term of employment.

First, I believe that the decision of whether to get a COVID vaccination, or any other vaccination or medical procedure, is a decision that should be made by each individual, in close consultation with his or her medical provider. It is my understanding that all the businesses requiring vaccines are offering medical exemptions; that only increases the importance of people working with their medical providers to determine if the vaccine is right for them.

Recent polling shows that Idahoans are very reluctant to have and, by wide margins, do not support increased government involvement in the operation of private businesses if at all avoidable. I am troubled by the prospect of injecting government control into the private sector if a better solution is available.

I cannot support going into session with an open-ended agenda regarding vaccines or any other topic that would unnecessarily subject people to government regulation. Having said that, if there were a narrow piece of legislation that enjoyed the *unequivocal* support of at least 36 members of the House **AND** the *unequivocal* support of at least 18 members of the Senate, I would coordinate with the President Pro Tempore to bring the entire legislature into session to address a mutually supported draft bill. Anything else would be an unacceptable waste of taxpayer money.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott".