



**For Immediate Release
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Contact:
Rep. Megan Blanksma
(208) 590-0703
Sen. Kelly Arthur Anthon
(208) 332-1327

Republican Leaders Appoint Joint Working Groups to Address COVID-19

BOISE, Idaho – Speaker of the House Scott Bedke and President Pro Tempore Brent Hill are proposing new safeguards for the very foundations of our republic. The set of constitutional amendments and legislation would ensure the people of Idaho are not silenced, preserve the checks and balances set by our forefathers and protect against overreach by the executive branch.

“The past few months have taught us a hard lesson: Idaho’s laws dealing with unprecedented conditions created by the COVID-19 virus are inadequate,” said Speaker of the House Scott Bedke. “The Republican Caucuses of the House and Senate are working together to craft legislation that would improve Idaho’s future response should these conditions arise again.”

The legislative package as developed by Joint Legislative Working Groups would be presented during the 2021 Session, and would include six major categories:

- Election Dates and Process
- Non-Cognizable Funds Procedures and Limits
- Emergency Declaration Duration and Power
- Constitutional Amendment for Special Legislative Sessions
- Limitations on Liability for Schools, Businesses, etc., During Health Crises
- Statutory Flexibility for Public Schools to Deal with Possible Financial Holdbacks

“This potential legislation would ensure that the people of Idaho would have their say, through their duly-elected senators and representatives, in how the state is run during trying times,” said President Pro Tempore Brent Hill.

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