

Mayor Brian C. Blad

Rick Cheatum | Linda Leeuwrik | Corey Mangum
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December 11, 2025

The Honorable Brad Little
State of Idaho
P. O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0034

Dear Governor Little:

I am writing to express support for efforts to address the impacts of Idaho's recent cuts to high-acuity mental-health programs, including Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), High Acuity Residential Treatment (HART) clinical services, Early Serious Mental Illness/Coordinated Specialty Care, Peer Support, and half-day Partial Hospitalization Program (PRP). These programs, which were discontinued or altered effective December 1, 2025, have provided stabilization and safety for some of the highest-risk individuals in our communities.

The City of Pocatello has already begun to see the effects of these changes. The populations historically served by these programs have significant needs, and without ACT, HART, and other intensive supports, we anticipate increases in:

- psychiatric crises
- emergency medical transports
- officer-involved calls
- ER boarding and involuntary holds
- jail utilization for behavioral-health presentations
- homelessness and visible psychosis
- uncompensated hospital and EMS costs

At this time, Pocatello is not prepared or resourced to absorb these responsibilities, particularly given the lack of notice and absence of a coordinated transition plan. These changes are expected to produce significant operational, staffing, and fiscal impacts for Pocatello.

Based on modeling shared with us, our region may face substantial increases in downstream costs, including higher demands on law enforcement, EMS, hospitals, public assistance, and community safety systems. For example, Pocatello alone is projected to incur approximately \$20 million annually in combined local impacts.

For these reasons, I support the efforts currently underway to pause or reverse these changes through legal channels and to ensure that ACT and other high-acuity stabilization programs are restored or protected through the upcoming legislative process.

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Maintaining community-based stabilization is essential to public safety, emergency response, hospital capacity, and the wellbeing of the individuals served. We encourage state leadership to consider the urgent need to restore these services and to ensure that local governments, hospitals, and public-safety agencies are not left without support.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Brian C. Blad
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Director Juliet Charron, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
Ric Boyce, Mental Health Specialists