

Candidate Statement

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SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF IDAHO

Biography and Qualifications - As a licensed pharmacist I am one of a very few of Idaho's 105 legislators with medical education and experience. I have a Bachelor's degree in the Biology of Natural Resources from UC Berkeley and a PharmD degree in pharmacy from UC San Francisco. My postgraduate clinical training is in geriatrics from the VA Medical Center in Boise. I have taught college and university classes at BSU and the College of Western Idaho. I am completing my fifth term as a representative from District 17. I have served on Education, Local Government and most recently have served on Commerce and Human Resources. Throughout my tenure I have served on the Health and Welfare Committee. During my service in the Idaho Legislature my major accomplishments have been surrounding education and the health and safety of Idahoans. This term, among other bills, I worked across the aisle for school safety (HB 514), passed legislation to allow Regional Behavioral Health Centers to accept donated medications including unused Patient Assistance Program Medications to dispense to indigent clients with valid prescription orders(H373), passed a measure to curtail prescription drug abuse (H374), worked tirelessly for 78,000 Idahoans in their quest for healthcare coverage , and introduced legislation (HB 416) that would have expanded the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) so that Idaho would have almost doubled the number of low income children covered under this critical federal program.

Why vote for me— I work very hard as a public servant. I make special effort to listen deeply and keep my constituents informed, holding weekly office hours, holding 4 forums and wrap up discussions as well as visit schools and do all I can to encourage and inform everybody, especially students. As a case in point, last year, when Borah High students saw what I was doing on anti-bullying legislation, they became a major force in helping the bill pass. In addition, when the education of Idaho children was facing major changes with Mr. Luna's Students Come First proposals, while the Idaho Legislature was still in session and deciding on what to do, I made the unusual decision to go door to door during session which already is so very demanding, to inform my constituents and ask their opinion and then I took action decisively on their behalf. I will do that again on issues that important and moving that fast because involving my constituents is that important to me. As my yard signs say, I am "Working together * With people * In our community * On issues that matter".

My top priorities:

- That people who do not have a seat at the table are kept informed and get their voices heard.
- The health and safety of all Idahoans. This year, in particular, it is the 78,000 Idahoans who make too little to qualify for insurance premium assistance but fall into a gap of care because they make less than the federal poverty level and thus cannot qualify for state health insurance.
- education of our children and development of a qualified work force
- good jobs
- preserving Idaho's good quality of life