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March 25, 2022

The Honorable Brad Little Idaho State Capitol Building P.O. Box 83720 Boise Idaho 83720

Dear Governor Little -

I write today in support of H782, a "good government" bill that we believe will improve transparency and accountability in the process for filling judicial vacancies.

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) has long sought and supported a balanced legal system where small and independent businesses are fairly served by an objective and non-partisan judicial structure.

H782 makes modest, reasonable, and defensible changes to the Judicial Council by increasing the number of members and ensuring more diversity of perspectives, while retaining geographic and bipartisan representation.

Notably, H782 shines much needed sunlight on the critical, but now obscure process of screening applicants, which ultimately determines who fills judicial vacancies. History has shown that once on the bench, those judges who appear on the ballot are rarely challenged, a reality which only reinforces the importance of a transparent and accountable selection process. Simply put, a small group of unelected and unaccountable lawyers should not serve as sole gatekeepers to the bench.

On behalf of 4500 Idaho NFIB members, we urge you to sign H782.

We appreciate your service to the citizens of Idaho and thank you for your support of Idaho's small and independent businesses,

Sincerely,

Suzanne Budge Idaho State Director, NFIB/ID