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Week Five

Tensions over the budget process continued to escalate this week culminating in a divided house vote on a bare bones maintenance budget for the judicial branch. The 38-31 vote for a budget that many fear doesn't meet the constitutional requirement to fund government, set off a chain reaction of activity within the majority caucus. House Majority Leader Megan Blanksma was the lone member of leadership to vote against the budget having been consistent in her criticism and concern about the budget being incomplete. Outrage ensued over her vote and there were calls for her removal from leadership. Late into Wednesday rumors swirled that there would be motions to remove all members of leadership. The events that occurred next are unprecedented in the state. Thursday, when the House went on the floor, Rep. Palmer stood up and made a motion to "retain the speaker" seconded by Rep. Vander Woude. The House voted unanimously to retain the speaker and there was only one comment, that this was a detractor from the legislature doing the people's work. After the vote, the House immediately went into caucus where they voted on whether to retain all four members of the House leadership team. The vote was done in secret and ultimately led to the removal of Rep. Blanksma as Majority Leader.

Candidly, this week was a hard one for the team at Cygnet. The actions taken this week highlight how divided our state is, and how sometimes being critical and outspoken unfairly result in punitive measures. We are grateful to Rep. Blanksma for her demonstrated leadership as Majority Leader and look forward to working with her on issues important to you and to our state.

Agendas were packed with RSs this week as the deadline (February 12th) for bill introductions into non privileged committees nears. We are working through those bill introductions and will send anything we think is germane to your interests.

Nonprofit Highlight

The [Ronald McDonald House](#) is a charitable organization that provides lodging and support for families of children receiving medical treatment at nearby hospitals. It offers a "home away from home" environment, with comfortable accommodations, communal spaces, and resources to help families during challenging times. These houses are located near hospitals across the globe, offering convenience and solace to families facing medical crises.

Idaho Fun Fact

Idaho has the most neutral dialect of any state in the US.