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## A Cure for a Disease Called Poverty

Poverty is real in Idaho. Thousands of families suffer from starvation and lack of an education while parents live in fear of not knowing whether they will be able to feed their children. It is not a lie that of the three hundred and forty seven thousand children in Idaho, nineteen percent are living in poverty while Idaho ranks thirty-ninth among the fifty states at combating child poverty. Poverty is a disease that many suffer from. Unemployment is low and many schools do not have the necessary tools to give students in Idaho a proper education that they deserve, creating a guaranteed future filled with struggle to keep up with the fast pace of the new millennium.

In Idaho, the poverty rate is one of the highest in the nation. Young adults are lacking the necessities to be able to get the chance to achieve higher education generally causing them to live off a low, minimum wage income. Unfortunately, minimum wage can only get a person so far before they fall below the poverty line. The problem is that Idaho lacks the tools to give students a proper education. For example, the majority of teachers in twelve percent of schools in Idaho are beginners when it comes to using technology such as computers which are essential in the technological fields that are available in the United States today. Also, twenty-nine percent of eighth graders in Idaho scored below the basic level of math that is expected in their grade. Idaho teenagers are not getting a good education in high school, so when they graduate, they are not prepared for a higher education causing them to live off a minimum wage income.

Another serious problem Idaho citizens face is the low number of programs for young adults struggling with poverty. Idaho's main concern today is children living below the poverty

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line, but when those children reach eighteen years of age there are few programs to help them with the risk of poverty. Low-income college students whom have no outside support, struggle through college and deal with years of debt from loans and other forms of payment. During their experience, they live way below the poverty line and some drop out of college because the struggle was too tough to deal with.

In order to solve these problems, the Idaho government needs to institute programs that effect persons of all ages especially young adults. Such programs should include wage and income support and assistance programs for young adults even if they are not enrolled in college for if young adults are able to afford the basic necessities such as food and shelter they will perceive a more positive outlook on life. Also, the state of Idaho needs to increase the percentage of the federal budget that goes to public schools to assure that students enrolled in a public school have the tools such as computers and updated books to have the best education available. These solutions will increase the number of young adults who attend college and will eventually increase the amount of spending in Idaho because the young adults upon graduation from college will be able to obtain a higher wage. The increase in spending in Idaho will lead to a more prosperous and stable economy eliminating poverty.

Poverty is like a disease. It can either be stopped with a cure or can continue if nothing is done to stop it. Soon I will be graduating from high school, and I will be among the many young teens who try to reach for success. I want to stay out of poverty, and the way I am going to assure that I do is be financially stable. Throughout high school, I have saved money for college and worked hard for the grades that I have. I have enrolled in college for the upcoming fall semester and plan to go to the university near my home to receive a degree in biological

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sciences. I will then go to veterinary school and work for a DVM degree. Money management is an essential trait to have to stay away from poverty. I will be careful with what I buy and when I buy it for debt is the last thing I want. I want to be successful and work to stay away from the risks of poverty. This is what I hope other teenagers can achieve with help from their government, teachers, parents, and even themselves.