

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25941

Rural Idaho needs more doctors, particularly in primary care and psychiatry. To encourage young physicians to plant roots in Idaho communities and serve in healthcare shortage areas, the legislature created a loan repayment program called the Rural Physician Incentive Program (RPIP). Funds from the program go to helping pay down medical education loans for physicians who take on these hard to fill positions. However, only a few grants are made each year because since its inception in 2000, RPIP has relied solely on funds paid by WWAMI and University of Utah medical students through their annual fees. This bill would allow the legislature to contribute to the fund at a rate of two state dollars for every one student dollar.

FISCAL NOTE

This has a potential impact on the General Fund of approximately \$640,000 per year, subject to appropriation. This number represents twice the approximately \$320,000 that medical students contribute through annual fees. The fees are set annually by the State and can vary from year to year, but are usually in the range of \$1600 per student per year.

Contact:

Representative John Vander Woude
(208) 332-1000
Representative Luke Malek
(208) 332-1000

DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).