

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 20, 2018

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Packer, Representatives Perry, Vander Woude, Redman, Blanksma, Hanks, Kingsley, Zollinger, Wagoner, Chew, Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Cyn Reneau, Truth208; Brian Darcy, IESDB; Lesa Coleman, Kari Baker, Erica Shiflet, and Gretchen Fors, Parent - Id. Hands & Voices; Emily Jones and Corinne Coleman, ID Hands & Voices; Alex Adams, Board of Pharmacy; Karen Sharphand, IIC; Rebecca Coyle, Self, IIC, Parent; Carolyn Bridges, Self; Raffe Hewett and Kathryn Turner, IDHW; Maria Kennedy, ACLU; Toni Lawson, Id. Hospital Assoc.; Susie Pouliot, ID Med. Assoc.; Michelle Wilcox, Agent & Mother; Lee Flinn, Id. Primary Care Assoc.; Kat Ross, Parent

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2018, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Packer** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2018, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 26202: **Cyn Reneau**, Truth208 Campaign, presented **RS 26202** to house the Truth208 Program within the Idaho Board of Pharmacy, subject to annual appropriations, in order to continue controlled substance abuse or misuse prevention.

MOTION: **Rep. Perry** made a motion to introduce **RS 26202**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 26204: **Sen. Tony Potts**, District 33, presented **RS 26204**, which repeals Idaho Code Chapter 32, Title 37 which requires legend drug code imprinting, now a federal manufacturer requirement.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to introduce **RS 26204**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

HCR 45: **Rep. Ilana Rubel**, District 18, presented **HCR 45** for hearing aid devices for children. The cost of cochlear implants, not covered by insurers, burdens insured families. It also impairs the child's educational prospects, language, brain development, and causes long-term harm. This Resolution begins the conversation with the Department of Insurance (DOI) and private insurers to determine and report back on the scope and impact of this situation.

Lesa Coleman, Parent, Idaho Hands and Voices Coordinator, further presented **HCR 45**. The required newborn hearing screening has high compliance, but the intervention is lacking. Insurance law allows exclusion for hearing aids and eye glasses, without provisions for youth.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Packer** made a motion to send **HCR 45** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Answering a question, **Rep. Rubel** said not all pediatric hearing loss is congenital, so asserting an existing legal congenital carve-out would not help others.

Brian Darcey, Administrator, Bureau of Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind (IESDB); **Emily Jones**, Idaho Hands and Voices; **Corinne Coleman**, self; **Gretchen Fors**, Parent, President, Idaho Hands and Voices; **Kari Baker**, Parent, Board Member, Idaho Hands and Voices; **Kat Ross**, Parent; **Erica Shiflet**, Board Member, Idaho Hands and Voices, Parent; **Eric Fores**, Parent; **Michelle Wilson**, Insurance Agent, Parent, testified **in support of HCR 45**.

They shared hearing loss examples for themselves or family members. Early intervention is important to help children speak, process, interact with others, and make a difference in the world. The hearing aid loan bank offers only a temporary, short term solution for families. Specialty aids can cost up to \$100,000, with no insurance and limited grants of \$1,500. Insurance covers surgeries, but not habilitating costs. Non-coverage can come as a surprise. This population is living without durable equipment provided to other individuals. Investment return includes society, families, communities, and Idaho.

For the record, no one else indicated their desire to testify.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Rubel will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 494:

Rep. Megan Blanksma, District 23, presented **H 494** to provide signed notification by a parent or guardian acknowledging the child's information is being entered into the Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS), an opt-out program. This is beneficial to both providers and patients as defensible notification proof without causing an undue provider burden.

Rebecca Coyle, Citizen, Parent, Executive Director, Immunization Organization, testified **in opposition to H 494**, which adds a significant administrative burden when federal law already requires electronic timestamps. In answer to a question, she said every vaccine administered would require a signature which will also require system changes for IRIS reporting.

Carolyn Bridges, Self, Physician, Internal Medicine, Adult Immunizations, Director, Centers for Disease Control, Science, Influenza Division, Parent, testified **in opposition to H 494**, which would diminish the value and utilization of immunizations and is already covered by federal law.

Susie Pouliot, CEO, Idaho Medical Association (IMA), testified **in opposition to H 494**, which could create additional work in physicians offices. An unintended consequence could be physicians ceasing vaccinations or patients becoming wary of repeatedly signing forms. The majority of physicians honor the opting out selection.

For the record, no one else indicated their desire to testify.

The committee invited **Raffe Hewett**, Program Manager, Immunization Program, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), to answer a question. He said 868 individuals have opted out of IRIS and only 67 of those have chosen a total information deletion. A monthly manual quality check determined the 67 records have never been re-entered into IRIS. The system retains only a demographic record for those opting out, blocking any other entry. The total deletion option leaves no demographic record.

Rep. Blanksma, in closing remarks, stated the provision is in Idaho Code. This is neither anti-IRIS nor anti-vaccine. There is a separate data base maintained to hold the opt-out names. The signature provides accountability and is already being done by many providers, including the Central District Health.

MOTION:

Rep. Vander Woude made a motion to send **H 494** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Rubel made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 494** in committee.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 5 AYE, 7 NAY. Voting in favor** of the substitute motion: **Reps. Wood, Redman, Wagoner, Chew, Rubel. Voting in opposition** to the substitute motion: **Reps. Packer, Perry, Vander Woude, Blanksma, Hanks, Kingsley, Zollinger.**

ORIGINAL MOTION **Original motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Wood, Redman, Wagoner, Chew, and Rubel,** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Blanksma** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 am.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary