

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 09, 2022

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Martin, Vice Chairman Riggs, Senators Heider, Lee, Harris, Zito, Stennett, and Wintrow

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator VanOrden (Bair)

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Martin** called to order the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) at 3:07 p.m.

HCR 30 HEALTH - States findings of the Legislature and recognizes October 9, 2022, as PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day. **Representative Chris Mathias** introduced himself to the Committee. He explained PANDA was Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections, and PANS was Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome. These were rare and life changing conditions that affected thousands of children. **Representative Mathias** explained that the Governor had declared this day for the past 3 years to bring awareness to those conditions. The resolution declared October 9, 2022, Idaho PANDA/PANS Awareness Day in Idaho. He also hoped this would encourage key stakeholders such as the Department of Health and Welfare, the State Department, Board of Education and non-profits to encourage them to work together to ensure public access to reliable information about PANDA/PANS.

TESTIMONY: The following testified in support of **HCR 30**: Alex Fischer, Charity Edwardson, Shannon Leigh, Gina Nilsson, Sue Gray, and Sarah Lemley whom read a statement written by Wendy Morris. These parents provided details on how their child was affected and the challenges of getting help. **Ms. Lemley** stated she was the Executive Director of the only PANDA/PANS non-profit serving Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Wintrow** and **Senator Lee** stated their appreciation for having this information and awareness brought to their attention. **Senator Lee** asked how the Committee could help. **Ms. Gray** responded having physician awareness of protocols along with insurance that would cover the specialists required for treatment would be beneficial. **Senator Stennett** asked about treatments for Ms. Gray's child. **Ms. Gray** reported antibiotics, steroids, and dietary changes, she noted some children need IVIg which replaced immunoglobulins. **Senator Lee** asked Ms. Lemley what more the Committee could do. **Ms. Lemley** responded that 8 other states had passed insurance mandates to cover this condition. She added an advisory group and a public awareness campaign would also be helpful.

MOTION **Senator Wintrow** moved to send **HCR 30** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Wintrow will carry on the floor.

H 664 **SPEECH AND HEARING SERVICES.** **Representative Matthew Bundy** introduced himself to the Committee. He stated this bill provided for Idaho to participate in the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. It would allow licensed professionals to practice in the other compact states using telemedicine for continued treatment of patients while they were out of the state. **Representative Bundy** relayed that the Department of Defense (DOD) was a proponent of this bill.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lee** asked about page 7 the initiative for active duty military. **Representative Bundy** responded this would enable active duty military, spouses, and family to receive treatment and provided a letter from the DOD in support.

TESTIMONY: **Rachelle Ruffing** introduced herself to the Committee. She provided details on the benefit of this compact and relayed the current difficulties when treating patients in the military who frequently relocate.

MOTION: **Senator Riggs** moved to send **H 664** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Riggs will carry on the floor.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Heider** moved to approve the meeting minutes for January 27, 2022. **Senator Riggs** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Riggs** moved to approve the meeting minutes for February 8, 2022. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Wintrow** moved to approve the meeting minutes for February 10, 2022. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Martin** adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Senator Martin
Chair

Lena Amoah
Secretary