

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19590

Current Idaho law provides immunity from civil lawsuits for health care organizations that utilize a "peer review" process for quality assurance, credentialing, privileging and professional review actions. The success of any peer review process depends entirely upon the participation of health care professionals and their open and candid assessments. Because health care professionals are largely volunteers in the peer review process, a lack of immunity from civil suit stifles the process and the quality of the results. Despite language in the current statute providing immunity for the use of such peer review information, a recent Idaho Supreme Court ruling construed the statute very narrowly. The statute should be clarified to re-express the original intent of the legislature when the current statute was passed. The sanctity of the peer review process is crucial and must be protected.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no impact to the General Fund.

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