

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 12, 2012
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: Room EW42
MEMBERS: Chairman McGeachin, Vice Chairman Bilbao, Representative(s) Loertscher, Shepherd, Thayn, Wood(27), Guthrie, Roberts, Rusche, Chew
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Loertscher, Shepherd
GUESTS: Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Food Bank; Heidi Low, ACS CAN; Sarah Fuhriman, Roden Law Office; Elizabeth Criner, John Waffs, Veritas Advisors LLP; Tony Smith, Benton Ellis; Joi McGarvin, America's Health Insurance Plans; Julie Taylor, Blue Cross of Idaho; Frank Powell, Department of Health & Welfare; Hannah Brass, Planned Parenthood; Ryan Fitzgerald, Principle Strategic; Brent Olmstead, Magellan Health Services; Kathie Garrett, Idaho Academy of Family Physicians; Jayson Bonk, Idaho Association of Commerce & Industry; Colley Cameron, Sullivan Reberger Eiguren; Corey Surber, Saint Alphonsus; Mrs. G. Westlake, Idaho Resident.

Chairman McGeachin called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Chairman McGeachin welcomed the members of the committee and introduced the page, Abby Prigge.

Chairman McGeachin stated that the rules process would be the same as last session, including online documentation, so every committee member must bring a computer to each meeting.

Chairman McGeachin then had the pages file into the committee room with printed copies of the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act (PPACA), which were handed out to each committee member. She stated that she had the nine hundred and six page Act printed since it would be integral during this session and each member would need to be familiar with it in order to clarify and delve into the issues brought before the Committee.

She emphasized that this was not required reading and talked about the law and some of it's resulting concerns. She also pointed out that the costs for printing were from her own funds and not through the state, commenting that printing costs were lower through a private Boise business than in the Capitol Print Shop.

Chairman McGeachin said that she will also be facilitating meetings, beginning next Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. in a room yet to be determined. The meetings will focus on reviewing the parameters of the establishment of the law. She then read a portion of the Act describing the exchange basic functions. She stated that education about the PPACA is necessary to cast a vote.

Rep. Rusche requested clarification if we were addressing state or federal law.

Chairman McGeachin responded that it is part of the educational process, with choices given in the federal law to assist with the establishment of an exchange, so we need to know what is being asked of our state and if we agree with the request.

Rep. Rusche stated that he appreciates a fair, open discussion of consequences or decisions.

Rep. Wood stated that the health care reform occurs in two laws and the Committee needs to be cognizant that there is another half of the reform that may not be represented in the document presented to them.

Chairman McGeachin agreed that the Committee needed to keep that in mind as the session progresses.

Rep. Rusche requested that notice of the educational meetings be made public enough in advance so anyone wishing to attend can be there to compare their knowledge.

Chairman McGeachin reiterated that there is a lot to learn about the Act and the meeting sessions will definitely be posted publicly, including the date, time, and location, so anyone who wishes can attend.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

Representative McGeachin
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary