

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 20, 2012
TIME: 3:00 P.M.
PLACE: Room WW55
MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Andreason, Fulcher, Toryanski, Malepeai and LeFavour
ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Pearce and Winder

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.

MINUTES: **Chairman Goedde** called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. He said that in the red folders for the committee members there was quite a bit of information, including three of the four reports that the State Department of Education is statutorily required to provide, Math Initiative, Idaho Reading Indicator and the English Language Proficiency. The fourth report was 63 pages and the link was emailed to members of the committee rather than printing it. Also included is a report on 2011 discretionary expenditures by school district.

Chairman Goedde introduced the two new pages for the second half of the session, **Jamie Bush** and **Joshua Smith**.

PRESENTATION: **Chairman Goedde** welcomed **Paul Headlee** to the committee. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #1). The report **Mr. Headlee** is presenting is a state wide report. From 2010-2012, there are 500 fewer active employees in the system. **Mr. Headlee** reviewed pages 2 and 3 of the document relating to the bonuses and short term merits that have been reported. **Chairman Goedde** questioned the statistics of the number of active employees at University of Idaho. **Mr. Headlee** stated this was a typo (on pages 3 and 6) and the number of active employees at the University of Idaho is 2,417 and the number of active employees at Lewis-Clark State College is 413. **Mr. Headlee** stated that pages 4-6 are the salary adjustments. **Chairman Goedde** commented on it being a lot of information to digest but an initial question he has is whether there is any way to try to develop any equity between the short term numbers and the merit numbers (he would guess the merit numbers would be ongoing). **Mr. Headlee** confirmed that **Chairman Goedde** is correct in his comment.

S 1299: **Chairman Goedde** welcomed **Mark San Souci**, Regional Liason of the Northwest Defense State Liason Office, to the committee. **Mr. San Souci** is here to ask the legislature to establish policies that ensure separating Service members do not have to repeat requirements completed during their military career to obtain academic credit or an occupational license. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #2).

Senator Toryanski asked why more directive language was not used, for example, using "may". **Mr. San Souci** said more direct language was asked for but they took what they could get. **Senator Toryanski** asked if there was any opposition to this legislation. **Mr. San Souci** responded that he is generally aware of push back but cannot identify in Idaho where it is coming from. He has had great success in four other states that this legislation is currently working its way through.

Senator Fulcher asked for clarification on why this legislation does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund. **Mr. San Souci** replied that many academic institutions use ACE and that is typically what they refer to as the tools to access any military transcript of course completion. He is not aware of a fiscal impact.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked for examples of direct correlation between military training and education credits. **Mr. San Souci** said there are the typical case studies of Navy Corpman that have had a 20 year career in the medical field now wanting to be nurses and being told they have to start from day 1 of nursing school. There are cases of electricians and plumbers who have done work like that in different services and not having any provisions in the state to have the kind of start from the apprentice level. There are also civil engineers in the Corp. that need to get their degree. We are not talking about direct licensing of these Corpman, but pushing them in that direction.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Mortimer moved to send **S 1299** to the floor with a do pass recommendation. The motion was seconded by **Senator Toryanski**. The motion passed by voice vote and **Senator Toryanski** will carry **S 1299** on the floor.

H 393:

Chairman Goedde welcomed **Tracie Bent** to the committee. **Ms. Bent** stated that H 393, as amended, proposes changes that would move the administration of the Idaho Rural Physician Incentive Program to the Department of Health and Welfare office. The Rural Physician Assistant Fund is composed of students preparing to be physicians in the field of medicine or osteopathic medicine supported by the state. These include the WWAMI medical education program and the University of Utah Medical Education Program. The funds from the account are then used to repay qualified medical education debt in exchange for the position working in a medically underserved area of Idaho. The Rural Physician Incentive Program aligns well the Department of Health and Welfare's Rural Healthcare Act. The combination of the two programs will allow for increased efficiencies in managing the programs. Between the two programs, there will be one joint review board created with 13 members. Other proposed changes include changing the disbursement to a maximum of \$50,000 over 4 years, rather than the current 5 years and incorporate what is currently an administrative rule regarding the application process and eligibility requirements in the State Code. The Board of Education staff worked with the staff of the Department of Health and Welfare and the Department of Health and Welfare is in support of the changes.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked why this change is needed to be made. **Ms. Bent** responded that the office of the State Board has limited contact with the medical education students once they have graduated from the programs and completed their residency. The individuals participating in this program are physicians. They have found that after trying to administer it for the last two years that with the limited resources in their office, they have not been able to do a great job of marketing it and getting applicants who are willing to go through the process. The Rural Healthcare Act already has a network set up and is aligned with their primary mission. They feel that they would have a greater ability to market and administer the program. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** asked how much time it would take to do this as far as actual employee overhead is concerned. **Ms. Bent** responded that during the application process itself it does take a considerable amount of staff time. The Department of Health and Welfare feels they have adequate staff already in place that can handle this change and may not take any additional employees. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** asked how much it would decrease FTE and increase the Department of Health and Welfare's FTE. **Ms. Bent** stated that it would not decrease ours or increase theirs, but it will allow the individual staff person who manages the office currently to work on other duties.

Chairman Goedde asked for clarification on the amendments to the bill. **Ms. Bent** stated that the amendment was to clearly specify in section 39-5902 that the funds that are for these students can only be used for the Rural Physician Fund and not for the Rural Healthcare Act.

Chairman Goedde said that the committee would continue to hear testimony on **H 393** but would delay the vote until the correct bill is before the committee.

Senator Fulcher said that it appears to be just a transfer of oversight to Health and Welfare but the question is are the education institutions standing in support because there may be implications on how medical training is managed within the state. **Ms. Bent** said that each of the institutions had the opportunity to give input as it went through the approval process and object to it. This does not impact the programs themselves. The changes were discussed with the members that are currently sitting on the current oversight committee for the program through the Department of Education's office and they were in support of this change as well. **Senator Fulcher** asked if the Department of Education has opposition on this matter. **Ms. Bent** stated there is no opposition.

TESTIMONY:

Chairman Goedde welcomed **Mary Sheridan**, the Program Manager for the State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, to the committee. **Ms. Sheridan** is here to testify in support of **H 393**. The Department of Health and Welfare has been working with the Department of Education and the language that was proposed is designed to align the programs together. One of the responsibilities that the State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care is collecting data and submitting federal applications that describe health work force shortage areas for the State of Idaho and also to create some programs to provide some strategies around the recruitment of retention of physicians and clinicians that serve rural and under-served Idaho communities. In the proposed legislation, they proposed modifications to better align this program with the Rural Healthcare Access Program. One modification is that the timeline would align with the Rural Healthcare Access Program. The existing board would be added to so they were inclusive of the area health education center. They also proposed to modify the statute so that it is a four year loan repayment instead of five (as currently exists).

Chairman Goedde said the bill would be held until February 21, 2012, at which time they will have the correct document in front of them and they will be able to vote.

PRESENTATION: **Chairman Goedde** welcomed the representatives from the Center for Healthy Teen Relationships to the Committee. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #3).

Ms. Miller is the Executive Director of the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence. The Center for Healthy Teen Relationships has been in existence since the mid-2000s. They have a very comprehensive strategy which includes engaging and educating youth in schools and out of schools. They reach approximately 15,000 high school and junior high school students in the state each year. **Senator Crapo** is the national leader and the leading sponsor of resolutions to create National Teen Dating Violence Aware Month (the month of February).

Ms. Miller then introduced **Pat Stewart**, the Coordinator of the School Health Programs with the Department of Education. **Ms. Stewart** spoke of the Idaho Youth Risk Behavior Survey which is collected in the spring. Idaho has participated in this survey since 1991. The survey results are representative of large, medium and small schools across the state. The average is about 9% of students reporting being in abusive relationships in the past 12 months. Idaho was the only state to ask the question about sending/receiving nude or semi-nude images via email or text. Surprisingly, overall, 33% of students indicated they had sent or received nude or semi-nude images (in 12th grade students, 33% of girls and 37% of boys).

Vice Chairman Mortimer stated that the Judiciary and Rules Committee just passed legislation that broadens the scope of criminal activity. **Ms. Stewart's** presentation is very upsetting to him. His question is what we can do about these large percentage she has presented. **Ms. Stewart** said that the Department of Education has been working very closely with school districts in talking about working with them on their health education curriculum, but also presenting this information to parents and faith groups do to make them aware of this issue. RADAR, the resource center at Boise State University, has a document that talks about the laws when you are 18 and what it means. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** asked **Ms. Stewart** to review the legislation that was introduced in Judiciary and Rules to see how she feels it would apply. **Ms. Stewart** said she does not know that legislation well enough to speak to that. **Senator LeFavour** said that the legislation is usually the exploitation of a minor by another person and so it is slightly different than what is being discussed here. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** will get **Ms. Stewart** the bill numbers for her to review. **Senator Fulcher** asked if the funding comes through the Department of Education. **Ms. Stewart** responded that her funding primarily comes from the Center for Disease Control and they are funded through a 5 year federal grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Fifty percent of **Ms. Stewart's** salary is state funded through the Department of Education. Their current budget for the next year is just slightly over \$200,000.

The next presenter was **Sherry Iverson**, representing the Pediatricians of the State of Idaho, the Idaho chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and St. Luke's Children's Hospital. People between the ages of 12 and 19 experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault. One city showed that in high school young women, if they are in a physical or sexual violent dating relationship, they are 4 to 6 times more likely to become pregnant. If they continue in this relationship, they are 8 to 9 times more likely to consider suicide or attempted suicide as they are trying to figure out if there is a way to get out of the relationship. This needs to be a collaboration between health care, education and our communities. **Ms. Iverson** stated that when parents were asked who they would most like to see talk to their kids about teen dating violence and relationships, pediatricians and health care providers came up as their number one trusted source of information. We need to move this into an education partnership with health care providers, education in the schools and the teens themselves. Many teenagers do not know what an unhealthy relationship looks like and just need to be walked through what the boundaries should be.

The next presenter was **Khadija Khan**, a junior at Capitol High School, and is a teen activist for the Center for Healthy Teen Relationships. **Ms. Khan** often witnesses emotional or verbal abuse within her school. Schools are where students should be shaped for their future in all aspects of their life. This program would give teachers an idea of how to handle talking with students.

The next presenter, **Shannon Page**, is a Policy Consultant with the Center for Healthy Teen Relationships. Up to 43% of students report dating abuse occurring on school grounds and victims generally have lower academic performance and are at a greater risk for dropping out. Students must have a safe and secure learning environment. Important considerations in policy development include definitions of key terms, youth engagement to ensure relevance and acceptance, age appropriate prevention education curriculum, training school personnel on adolescent relationship characteristics and skills for intervening in abusive situations, early intervention to stop unhealthy or abusive behaviors from escalating, reporting mechanisms and confidentiality. She is currently working on a model policy that has been developed to use with Idaho school districts.

Chairman Goedde inquired if this is something that is normally found in a student handbook. **Ms. Page** responded that it is not something that is on the radar screen yet. She said you will find other forms of harassment policies, bullying, etc. but you typically do not find the adolescent dating abuse prevention response yet. The difficulty is that most administrations and teachers would like to think that dating occurs outside school time, and once they walk on the school property, the young minds and hearts are not interested in being romantic - which is completely false thinking.

Senator Fulcher commented that so much of what the Education Committee does is supporting the public education system and trying to help find the funds to do that. It seems to him that there is more burden being put on the school system which means more administrative overhead to compensate. After listening to this presentation, the first thing that comes to mind is that families should be taking care of this. **Ms. Page** responded that there is a portion of this program that is very actively involved in "teen/parent education nights" where they are working with parents to be more open with their teens. They agree that the first line of defense should be within the home. Fortunately, **Senator Crapo**, with the Safe Teen Act, is recognizing that this will take some funds and there will be a reallocation of funds to provide this service.

Senator LeFavour commented that the administrative and counselor offices are the ones dealing with the consequences of this on a daily basis because the teens did not know what to look out for in a healthy relationship.

Senator Toryanski commented that this sounds like a program that would be appropriate for a class that already exists in the schools. Even though **Ms. Page** mentioned that this information was not yet available in the schools, **Senator Toryanski** inquired as to whether or not any of this information is already covered in a health class. **Ms. Page** responded that it is in the course of study for health education classes but there is a great amount of curriculum that needs to be covered in one semester and they would like to see it a much more comprehensive program. **Senator Toryanski** stated that these teenage relationships have been going on for centuries and inquired as to whether or not teens are abusing each other at a greater rate now or is it just at a greater awareness to the way people treat each other. **Ms. Page** said that it is both because we are increasing our awareness of the issues making it more in the forefront. **Kelly Miller** came to the podium to address this matter. She stated that there is a lack of parent attachment, creating adolescent risk factors. Ms. Miller pointed out that since they have been working with the Idaho Coalition, along with the Department of Education, there has been a decrease in the youth risk behavior survey question about being hit, slapped or hurt by a dating partner. Idaho may be the only state that has shown a 5% decrease from 2007 to 2011. However, work still needs to be done in the area of teens receiving nude or semi-nude photographs by text or email.

Senator Fulcher inquired as to who actually develops the content of the program. **Ms. Miller** said that it is team members from the Department of Education, St. Luke's, and a number of their teams. There are handbooks provided to middle school and high school parents to help them begin to have the conversations with their young sons and daughters about what healthy relationships should be like.

Ms. Miller said the take away message is that adolescent dating abuse and sexual assault is a significant problem in our communities and our schools. We have learned that Idaho can become a national model for other states in the country to look at how all the systems can work together to create comprehensive and effective prevention and response programs.

ADJOURN: **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:25 PM.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

LeAnn South
Secretary

Shannon Dearing
Assistant Secretary