

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 05, 2014

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW20

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Wood(27), Vice Chairman Perry, Representative(s) Hancey, Henderson, Hixon, Malek, Morse, Romrell, Vander Woude, Rusche, Chew

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Corey Surber, Saint Alphonsus; SeAnne Safaii and Sue Linja, Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics; Cay Marquart, Idaho Citizen.

**Chairman Wood(27)** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**RS 22505:** **Rep. John Rusche**, District 6, Retired Pediatrician, Health Quality Planning Commission (HQPC) Member, presented **RS 22505**, a proposed resolution that directs the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) to work with stakeholders to develop a plan for health data collection and analysis.

**Rep. Rusche** gave a brief history of the HQPC, describing its efforts to develop a plan for an electronic health information exchange and report on other policy and patient safety issues. The data exchange has been requested by the HQPC, health provider networks, carriers, and patients. The plan envisioned will include estimates of costs and suggestions on how to cover those costs.

Responding to Committee questions, **Rep. Rusche** said the stakeholders will collaborate with the DHW for the best plan to meet their needs. The electronic health records switchboard has taken two and a half years to develop. Protection of protocols and other confidential professional and individual information is an important component of the exchange, with consumer transparency addressed as the DHW and stakeholders discuss what is needed, shared, and protected.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Perry** made a motion to introduce **RS 22505**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 22506:** **Rep. John Rusche**, presented **RS 22506**, proposed legislation for Medicaid coverage working adults not eligible for subsidized insurance through the Health Insurance Exchange (Your Health Idaho).

The Supreme Court has stated that Medicaid expanded coverage is voluntary for the states. Since Idaho has chosen not to do the expansion, 80,000 to 100,000 working Idahoans are without coverage because their income is too little for Exchange products and too much for current Medicaid coverage.

He described this population and the magnitude of non-coverage. In addition, **Rep. Rusche** presented estimates from the Harvard School of Public Health and Medical School on the health consequences of failing to cover these individuals. Consequences include more depression, less good diabetes care, fewer health screenings, an increased number of significant adverse health conditions (with catastrophic costs), and an estimate of between 79 and 172 preventable deaths per year.

The fiscal note shows savings to Idaho taxpayers of \$90+ million dollars in 2015, and almost \$500 million over the next 10 years, some in local property tax and some in State general funds.

Major businesses estimate an additional tax burden will occur if this is not pursued. Hospitals, both large and small, will lose DISH hospital payments that offset the costs of unpaid care. Supporters recognize the financial and health advantages of extending benefits to the poor. Providing coverage for individuals in this health care gap provides a fair and balanced playing field for their health, ability to work, and their quality of life. This legislation provides a fiscally responsible and clinically appropriate way to save lives and money.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Morse** made a motion to return **RS 22506** to the sponsor.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Chew** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 22506**.

Responding to Committee comments, **Rep. Rusche** said a misconception exists that Medicaid provides services to the aged, disabled, and poor at a rate that is significantly less. He agreed that Medicaid and the entire health care system can be improved, but disagreed with a comment that Medicaid is broken.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Hixon** requested a **roll call vote** on the substitute motion to introduce **RS 22506**. **Motion failed by a vote of 2 AYE and 9 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Rusche** and **Chew**. **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Wood(27), Perry, Hancey, Henderson, Hixon, Malek, Morse, Romrell, Vander Woude**.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Rep. Hixon** requested a **roll call vote** on the motion to return **RS 22506** to the sponsor. **Motion carried by a vote of 9 AYE and 2 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Wood(27), Perry, Hancey, Henderson, Hixon, Malek, Morse, Romrell, Vander Woude**. **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Rusche** and **Chew**.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

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Representative Wood(27)  
Chair

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Irene Moore  
Secretary