

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 10, 2014

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Heider, Vice Chairman Nuxoll, Senators Lodge, Hagedorn, Guthrie, Martin, Lakey, Bock and Schmidt

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

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 Heider** called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m., and noted that the Committee members needed to be back on the Senate floor by 4:00, so the meeting would be shortened and items shifted around from what the agenda had noted.

RS 22796 **Relating to Indigent Sick: Senator Steven Thayn** stated that with the talk of Medicaid expansion in the coming years, this RS will offer an alternative to that expansion. One of the problems with Medicaid growth is that it makes it hard to have accountability. His aim is to try to create a program outside the Medicaid system and that it would be through the community health centers-with about 34 existing throughout the State and more in the planning stages. With **RS 22796** the Catastrophic Care (CAT) fund and county indigent fund will be eliminated. Those funds will then be used to build more community health centers. There is a certain percentage of the population that do not have access to subsidies, and his fear is that there are no alternatives other than Medicaid. **Senator Thayn** asked that the Committee consider printing the RS and that by the end of the session there could be a more thorough discussion on the details.

Senator Bock confirmed the need for further discussion after the RS is printed, especially due to the fact that many of the community health centers are supported, in some degree if not fully, by Medicaid, so he's not sure if this will solve the problem.

Senator Schmidt wanted to know if there was a definition of a community health center within the RS. **Senator Thayn** responded that he believed there was, but he will have to get back to the Committee to let them know.

MOTION: **Senator Martin** moved to print **RS 22796**. **Vice Chairman Nuxoll** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Martin wanted to commend Senator Thayn for his efforts in this area. He, like Senator Bock, has a lot of questions, but would like to wait for the full hearing to address them.

Stating Legislative Findings and Encouraging Companies to Avoid Substances Likely to Be Harmful and Substitute Safer Alternatives Whenever Feasible in Household Products, Especially Those Likely to be used by Pregnant Women and Children: **Senator Dan Johnson** began by saying this is a concurrent resolution to protect children and families from harmful substances. He wanted to note and thank the co-sponsors on the legislation, Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb and Representative Steven Miller. The purpose of **RS 22702C2** is to encourage the voluntary reduction of potentially harmful substances from household products and give recognition to those Idaho companies that are already reducing or eliminating the harmful substances from their products.

Senator Johnson pointed to evidence that shows as children develop in the womb they are vulnerable to harmful substances in household products, which have been found to cause problems to the fetus as it develops. The growth of the fetus in the womb can be hastened, halted or harmed by these chemicals. The fetus is also not able to de-toxify from its body any foreign chemicals, with one of the risks being an increase in childhood cancer. He then introduced the Committee to Trevor Schaefer, who was diagnosed with brain cancer at the age of 13, and who has since started the Trevor's Trek Foundation to help other children with cancer. Trevor's foundation is now working with a cleaning company, using only products that are made from naturally safer alternatives, to provide free services for the families of children suffering from cancer as they go through treatment.

TESTIMONY:

Trevor Schaefer, founder of Trevor's Trek Foundation (Foundation), told the Committee that during and after his diagnosis with brain cancer at the age of 13, he witnessed many other children, of all ages, battling the illness as well. In speaking to the children and their families, he felt the need to start his foundation because of the growth of childhood cancer. The Foundation believes in creating a healthy environment for the children who have and are fighting cancer and making efforts to protect families and communities for the future. He stated that the Foundation supports this effort to promote healthy cleaning products, since the more harmful substances (such as chlorinated compounds and mercury) have been shown to cause birth defects and diseases.

Mr. Schaefer told the Committee that just because he is cancer-free it does not mean that he is free from its effects, such as vision, hearing and memory problems, which are all related to the disease and treatment. These are things that he will have to deal with for the rest of his life. Many of the other children that the Foundation works with have lost limbs, vision, and their lives as they struggle not only with cancer but the subsequent treatments, surgeries, etc... He stated that, even though they do not know the cause of cancer, anything that can be done to help in eliminating this type of suffering and loss would be appreciated and helpful.

DISCUSSION:

Vice Chairman Nuxoll wanted to clarify what exactly is being discussed, is it cleaning products, or does it include food and other items. **Mr. Schaefer** responded that for this legislation they are concerned with cleaning products used in the home.

Senator Hagedorn thanked Trevor for being before the Committee and congratulated him on his valiant fight with cancer. In looking at the list of harmful substances that accompanies the legislation, some are known cancer causing agents, but asked if they all are regulated by a federal government agency such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). **Mr. Schaefer** answered that yes they are regulated, in a sense, but these harmful substances are still being used in certain products, and any level of exposure to these agents can be detrimental. **Senator Hagedorn** wanted to know if any of these substances could be traced back or related to Mr. Schaefer's particular type of cancer. **Mr. Schaefer** stated that is not known for certain since there are so many theories that go into the cause of cancer diagnosis, but it is the Foundation's goal to support the efforts to eliminate the

substances that are known to be harmful. **Senator Hagedorn** asked if the list of substances is complete, or could there be other harmful materials that aren't on the list. **Mr. Schaefer** said that he was certain the list was not complete just because of the great amount of harmful substances, but the list represents a good first step towards addressing the most commonly used harmful agents.

Senator Johnson named off some of the agents on the list and the household products they're found in that are used on a daily basis in the home. He also confirmed that instead of making such an overwhelming list all at once, it is better to address the issue in small doses and bring about awareness and change.

Chairman Heider wanted to ask about the larger document of chemicals referenced by Senator Johnson, yet the legislation only notes a few and that seems to be counter-productive to their cause. **Senator Johnson** said that the studies that have actually been done relate to the chemicals that are listed in the legislation.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Nuxoll** moved to print **RS 22702C2**. **Senator Schmidt** seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **Chairman Heider** asked the Secretary to take a roll call vote. **Vice Chairman Nuxoll, Senators Guthrie, Lodge, Bock** and **Schmidt** voted aye. **Chairman Heider, Senators Hagedorn, Lakey** and **Martin** voted nay. The motion carried.

S 1263 **Relating to Vital Statistics: James Aydelotte**, Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics, Public Health Division, Department of Health and Welfare (Department), stated that this legislation seeks to redefine the use of the term "advanced practice registered nurse". During the 2012 Legislative Session S 1273, introduced by the Board of Nursing, was passed. That bill changed the term "advanced practice professional nurse" to "advanced practice registered nurse". This same terminology is used several times throughout the Vital Statistics Act. This is a simple housekeeping change to update the vital statistics law to be consistent with how this term is used in other parts of Idaho law. **Mr. Aydelotte** confirmed that there are no changes to the nurses' responsibilities or scope of practice.

Senator Schmidt wanted to know if the term "certified nurse midwife" listed in the legislation would be a licensed position. **Mr. Aydelotte** answered that the terminology has been pulled from the Board of Nursing law and the language as taken notes "certified nurse midwife". **Senator Schmidt** was curious as to how that was related to a "licensed midwife". **Mr. Aydelotte** stated that he is not that familiar with the licensing of midwives, so he didn't feel confident to address that question.

MOTION: **Senator Hagedorn** moved that the Committee send **S 1263** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lodge** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Martin** wanted it noted that he is voting nay. Senator Hagedorn will carry the bill to the floor.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business before the Committee, **Chairman Heider** adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Senator Heider
Chair

Linda Hamlet
Secretary

Linda Harrison
Assistant Secretary