

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 05, 2015

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Packer, Representatives Hixon, Perry, Romrell, Vander Woude, Beyeler, Redman, Troy, Rusche, Chew

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Vander Woude, Rusche

GUESTS: SeAnne Safai, Academy of Nutr. & Diet.; Diana Crumrine, Jennifer Aumeier, Robert Franklin, Emily Dickerson, Dustin Stoenner, Joan Haynes, Kris Ellis, and Tony Smith, IDAANP; Colby Inzer, IANP; Laura Lyons, Valerie Dickerson, and Bill Snyder, Idaho Citizens; Sue Linja, Idaho Academy of Nutrition; Molly Steckel, IMA; Woody Richards, AHIP; Elizabeth Criner, ACSCAN; Julie Taylor, Blue Cross; Ryan Fitzgerald, IACP.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

RS 23606C1: **Rep. Melissa Wintrow**, District 19, presented **RS 23606C1**. Cancer chemotherapies are dispensed through intravenous (IV) or oral prescriptions. Oral chemotherapies have higher out-of-pocket costs, which can lead to financial difficulty and the patient foregoing treatment. This legislation provides a monthly out-of-pocket cap, similar to that enacted by other states, for oral chemotherapies.

MOTION: **Rep. Hixon** made a motion to introduce **RS 23606C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 181: **Kris Ellis**, on behalf of the Idaho Chapter of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (IDAANP), presented **H 181**. This legislation licenses naturopathic physicians who have gone to a four-year accredited school recognized by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME). Their training includes traditional medicine and pharmaceutical. They also take a nationally recognized multi-part exam. This legislation does not impact Chapter 51 in Idaho Code. The one year grandfather clause provides allowance for graduates from naturopathic schools prior to accreditation and the national exam, giving them one year to become licensed. The fees, once determined, will fund a viable board. There is a 2021 sunset date. **H 181** expands the ability of the defined naturopathic physicians, without restriction or removal of any rights to practice.

Responding to questions, **Ms. Ellis** said the legislation will help the public determine the practice category of a specific naturopath. Because previous attempts to include everyone into one board have been unsuccessful, this concept delineates the two types of naturopathic practice and creates a second board. The board contained in Chapter 51 of Idaho Code will remain as it is.

This legislation requires licensure to use the title "Naturopathic Physician" or "Doctor." The education includes a pre-medical undergraduate program, a four-year medical program, and a clinical rotation. The board will consist of a medical doctor, a pharmacist, and three naturopathic physicians.

Dr. Diana Crumrine, Naturopathic Physician, Boise, Board Member, IDAANP, testified in support of **H 181**, which offers her the opportunity to practice to her full scope of training. Recognition through **H 181** will lead to better collaboration with medical professionals. It will provide an avenue to file and process any complaint, and allow insurance coverage of her services.

Answering questions, **Dr. Crumrine** said her profession uses a lifestyle approach that includes dietary recommendations and supplementation, which are not a part of traditional medical training. Licensing will allow her to run labs, perform physical exams, and be professionally recognized.

Colby Inzer, President, Idaho Association of Naturopathic Physicians, testified **in opposition** to **H 181**. Although there has been a delay appointing members to the existing board, he expressed confidence that they will be appointed. Agreeing that education standards are needed, he pointed out that individuals graduating from a nonaccredited school have equal education but cannot take the licensing exam.

Answering questions, **Mr. Inzer** said his textbook-based education was through correspondence and provided him with strong research skills. It included a clinical rotation of nine months with **Dr. Klassen** in Aberdeen, Idaho.

Mr. Inzer expressed his desire to take the exam to demonstrate his level of education is equal to those seeking licensure through **H 181**. He stated concern that this board, like that in Chapter 51 of Idaho Code, will not have members appointed.

Chairman Wood commented that historically all professions allowed exam challenges. This was eliminated when standards and a formal education process were deemed necessary. **H 181** is transforming the naturopath profession with formal standards and a formal educational recognized by the Department of Education.

Laura Lyons, testified **in support** of **H 181**. Affordability, availability and quality of health are important factors when working with a healthcare professional. The use of traditional and natural medicine provides a well-rounded medical approach. Licensing provides a qualified selection pool and a safeguard against unethical naturopathic physicians.

Jennifer Aumeier, Boise Natural Health, testified **in support** of **H 181**. She expressed her appreciation for the use of proper nutrition and allergy considerations that immediately improved her long-term health issues.

Emily Dickerson, Naturopathic Physician, Board Member, IDAANP, testified **in support** of **H 181**. Her extensive education included lab, rotation, and a multi-day multi-part exam. Licensing ensures other health care providers have referral and collaborative confidence. The professional recognition will allow them to practice to their full scope of training, improving their income potential, which will keep and attract naturopathic physicians, especially those paying back student loans.

MOTION:

Rep. Beyeler made a motion to send **H 181** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Dustin Stoenner, Naturopathic Association, Registered Nurse, Boise Naturopathic Health, testified **in support** of **H 181**. It is important the public knows they are seeing physicians trained and licensed under the science-based scope of practice.

Joan Haynes Naturopathic Physician, testified **in support** of **H 181**. She explained the current limitations when a patient needs prescriptions and lab work. Licensing helps insurance companies determine coverage, which, in turn, helps patients.

Ken McClure, Idaho Medical Association (IMA), stated the IMA is taking a neutral position on **H 181**. The bill sponsors have addressed all of the IMA concerns.

William Snyder, Attorney, testified **in support** of **H 181**. Those meeting the licensing criteria are at the highest standard of their profession. Anyone not meeting the criteria can go to an appropriate school and get the education for that standard. The board and association must continue raising the profession's bar.

Valerie Dickerson, Idaho Citizen, testified **in support** of **H 181**. Because of the lack of insurance and a clear professional definition, pursuit of her desired type and level of primary care has been difficult.

Garry Shohet, Naturopathic Medicine Physician, Representing the Idaho Naturopathic Medicine Physicians, testified **in opposition** to **H 181**, expressing his concern with the limited grandfathering along with eligibility based on fraternity, not competency. The one school identified for grandfathering has historical accreditation issues. He suggested several changes to the legislation that would make it more acceptable.

Dr. Brent Matthew, Naturopathic Physician, testified **in support** of **H 181**, saying it is time to embrace naturopathic physicians as primary care experts helping people heal themselves through healthy lifestyle choices. **H 181** provides integration for the very best patient quality of care. His current license is not renewable because the Chapter 51 board is no longer in existence. This keeps him from practicing within his full scope of practice.

For the record, no one else indicated their desire to testify.

In closing remarks, **Kris Ellis** said the colleges listed are accredited naturopathic schools. The grandfathering qualifications will be met by two people who graduated prior to the exam. She opposed any changes that would send **H 181** to the amending order and cause further delay. This legislation moves the profession forward.

Commenting **in support** of **H 181**, **Rep. Hixon** said the suggested changes can be reviewed and, if approved, adopted during the interim. **Rep. Beyeler** stated this legislation allows the physicians to practice to the full scope of their training, protects the name of the physician, acknowledges accredited school training, and protects the public. **Vice Chairman Packer** said Chapter 51 remains in place for the protection of other practicing naturopaths, who need to address it's issues with the Governor. **Rep. Perry** said the suggested amendments could open up the profession to unknown areas of training and questionable expertise.

Chairman Wood commented previous licensing requests have shown the successful integration of a professional healthcare group with standards and ethics. Those licensed under Chapter 51 need to address it's rewrite with a functioning board structure and standards.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Wood called for a vote on the motion to send **H 181** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Romrell** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary