

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 25, 2016

TIME: 9:00 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) Perry

GUESTS: Erin Bennet, AHA/ASA; Jeff Morrell, Intermountain Hospital.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Packer** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 17, and 18, 2016, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 24575: **Rep. John Rusche**, District 6, presented **RS 24575**, a Resolution, in conjunction with the National Association of Social Workers, declaring March to be Social Worker Recognition Month and acknowledging the work done by social workers in our communities.

MOTION: **Rep. Romrell** made a motion to introduce **RS 24575** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Rusche** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 498: **Rep. John Rusche**, District 6, presented **H 498** to add e-cigarettes to the tobacco permit requirements. This legislation adds no other limitations, reporting requirements, or taxing. Free permits are obtained using the existing tobacco sales online registry through the Department of Health and Welfare. Current laws make it illegal to sell devices and solutions to minors. Vaping and e-cigarettes, as new methods of nicotine delivery, have no documented long-term effects beyond laboratory usage evidence.

Answering committee questions, **Rep. Rusche** said retailers also selling e-cigarettes may have local sales permits and not be registered with the Idaho Tobacco Project (ITP) because they have not been considered to be selling tobacco products. The ITP vendor list is provided to law enforcement for monitoring sales to minors. Vendors do not itemize the sales dollars sent to the tax commission. A new phenomenon and concern has developed over the flavoring and coloring chemicals used in e-cigarettes, especially their effect on the bronchi.

Erin Bennet, Government Relations Director, American Heart Association and American Stroke Association, testified **in support** of **H 498**. E-cigarettes are new technology with minimal regulation and public health data. The cigarette ads used to target youth in the past are still in use, only modified for e-cigarettes. This legislation helps moderate youth access to these products.

No one else indicated their desire to testify.

MOTION: **Rep. Hixon** made a motion to send **H 498** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Vander Woude** requested he be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Rusche** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 453: **Rep. Phylis King**, District 18, asked the committee to **HOLD H 453**, stating an issue resolution has been achieved, the legislation will be rewritten, and it will be brought back to the committee.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Packer** made a motion to **HOLD H 453** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 500: **Jeff Morrell**, CEO, Intermountain Hospital, presented **H 500**. This legislation provides a technical correction to the Medicaid reimbursement rate by identifying funding from the General Fund along with matching federal funding. Answering a question, Mr. Morrell said 62% of the vulnerable adolescents admitted last year were Medicaid beneficiaries.

MOTION: **Rep. Rusche** made a motion to send **H 500** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

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

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Wood** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 500** 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 9:23 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary