

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 16, 2017

**TIME:** 9:15 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW20

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Packer, Representatives Hixon, Perry, Vander Woude, Redman, Gibbs, Blanksma, Hanks, Kingsley, Zollinger, Chew (Reifers), Rubel

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Steven Sumter, IAPA; Dr. Alecia Laciando, Voices for Children, Idaho AAP; Alex Adams, Idaho Board of Pharmacy; Pam Eaton, IRA/ISPA; Anne Lawler, Board of Medicine; Rafe Hewett, ID Dept. Health & Welfare; Kathryn Turner, IDHW; Brian Whitlock and Baylee Malm, IHA; Lee Flinn, Id. Primary Care Assoc.; Sandy Evans, Bd. Nursing; Lyn D. Elliott, March of Dimes; Casey Suter and Mary Sheridan, IDHW; Susie Pouliet, ID Medical Assn.; Toni Lawson, Idaho Hospital Assoc.; Francoise Cleveland, AARP Idaho

**Chairman Wood** called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m.

**RS 25300:** **Vice Chairman Packer**, District 28, presented **RS 25300**, a Concurrent Resolution to reject **Section 750.10** of the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) Idaho Child Care Program Rules specified by the committee with **Docket No. 16-0612-1601**, heard on January 17, 2017.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Gibbs** made a motion to introduce **RS 25300** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote. Vice Chairman Packer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**RS 25293:** **Rep. Melissa Wintrow**, District 19, presented **RS 25293**, a Concurrent Resolution to raise awareness about the importance of supporting recruitment and retention efforts for neurological pediatricians in Idaho in order to address the physician shortage and the need to better serve children with rare diseases.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Perry** made a motion to introduce **RS 25293. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 25291:** **Pam Eaton**, President, CEO, State Pharmacy Association, presented **RS 25291**, to allow Rule designation by the Board of Pharmacy for the products patients may obtain directly from a pharmacist for certain conditions. These conditions would not require a diagnosis, be minor and self-limiting, and have a simple Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA) waived test for clinical decision making. Similar policies in other states have resulted in improved health outcomes and lowered overall healthcare costs.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Packer** made a motion to introduce **RS 25291. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 81:** **Rep. Troy**, District 5, presented **H 81** to amend the J-1 Visa Program. As a recruitment of last resort, the J-1 Visa Program addresses primary care physician shortages by allowing the placement of foreign-trained physicians when the recruitment of an American physician has been demonstrated to be unsuccessful.

The amendments allow no more than ten of the thirty total waiver slots to be used annually for recruiting specialist physicians in federally designated shortage areas. Further changes allow Idaho healthcare organizations not located in federally designated shortage areas to apply for primary care and specialist J-1 slots not utilized during the first six months of the federal fiscal year. The need must be demonstrated and an agreement to serve patients within the federally-designated shortage areas is required. No more than five of the ten flex waiver slots can go to specialists.

Answering a question, **Rep. Troy** said all J-1 physicians must serve in an under-served area, although they can be hired by an organization outside of the under-served area.

**Brian Whitlock**, President, CEO, Idaho Hospital Association (IHA), testified **in support of H 81**, which provides a way to address primary care and expand specialty care. It also allows hospital partnerships across state lines, which helps rural Idaho. The changes give credit to recruitment efforts already in process, should this legislation be signed.

Answering questions, **Mr. Whitlock**, said this mirrors other states by allowing specialists to be considered for the J-1 Waiver, beyond the already listed types of physicians. The IHA is committed to doing more to promote and raise awareness of the program. The physicians, medically trained in foreign countries, have spent three years or more in the U.S. doing their residencies.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Gibbs** made a motion to send **H 81** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Baylee Malm**, Senior, Compass Honors High School, Apprentice, IHA, testified **in support of H 81**, to expand the opportunity for rural health care and availability of specialists.

**Casey Suter**, Program Manager, Division of Public Health, DHW, reviewer of J-1 Visa applications, testified **in support of H 81**. There is a \$1,000 application processing fee to cover forty hours of processing time which ranges from submission to the three-year obligation completion.

**Susie Pouliot**, CEO, Idaho Medical Association (IMA), stated the IMA is **in support of H 81**.

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

**Brian Whitlock**, answering a question, said the nationwide physician shortage has led to statewide competition. A physician doing residency in a rural area remains to practice in that area, while physicians doing residencies in other states are unfamiliar with Idaho. After practicing for three years, participants can return to their country, apply for immigration or other visas, or pursue additional options.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Wood** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 81** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Troy** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 91:** **Susie Pouliot**, CEO, IMA, presented **H 91**. The 2016 immunization age decrease raised concern regarding duplication of vaccines administered at pharmacies. This Legislation requires vaccine providers enter information into the Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS), excluding the adult flu virus. This does not create new vaccination requirements and does not alter the opt out ability.

Answering questions, **Ms. Pouliot**, stated influenza vaccines are exempted because they are so common they would be burdensome to providers. IRIS is an open provider database already in use by the majority of physicians and vaccine providers.

**Rafe Hewitt**, Program Manager, Idaho Immunization Program, Division of Public Health, DHW, testified **in support** of **H 91**. IRIS is a helpful storage database with a voluntary participation option. It also determines when patients are due for their next immunizations with timely reminders. The system houses information spanning a person's life, even when the immunization is given at multiple locations.

**Alex Adams**, Executive Director, State Board of Pharmacy, testified **in support** of **H 91**. Pharmacists are required to report to IRIS within twenty-eight days, which is in the interest of public health.

**Dr. Alecia Laciando**, Pediatrician, Boise, testified **in support** of **H 91**. Requiring all providers use the system eliminates the stress of families trying to recall vaccination information necessary for offices and schools.

**Pam Eaton**, President, CEO, Idaho State Pharmacy Association, State Retailers Association, testified **in support** of **H 91**. Of the 85% of pharmacies already reporting to IRIS, a large group do not provide immunizations.

**Toni Lawson**, IHA, testified **in support** of **H 91**. Better information equals better care, particularly in emergency room situations.

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

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Packer** made a motion to send **H 91** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Rep. Blanksma** stated she has no problem with the vaccination; however, when she decided to opt out of IRIS, her selection was, without her knowledge, not honored. She is strongly **in opposition** to **H 91**.

**Rep. Rubel**, **in support** of the motion, said, although she respects parental vaccination rights, this is legislation for an informational system to protect parents. The system has been useful, especially when she has been unable to locate vaccination records.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Wood** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 91** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Zollinger, Blanksma, Hanks, and Kingsley** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Gibbs** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 115:** **Anne Lawler**, Executive Director, Idaho State Board of Medicine, presented **H 115** amending the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, which is part of the Idaho Medical Practice Act (IMPA). There are currently eighteen compact member states. The Compact provides physicians a means to obtain an expedited license in any of the Compact states, once the home state clears the applicant. Although the IMPA authorizes fingerprint background checks for all licensure applicants, specific language is added to authorize the background checks to qualify for the Compact.

Answering questions, **Ms. Lawler**, said the Compact qualification lasts for one year. The background check is also applicable to any Compact states selected during that year. Another background check would be required to add any states after the qualification year has ended. Physicians doing relief work and specialty physicians working in rural areas would be able to use the Compact for licensure in other states.

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

**MOTION:** **Rep. Redman** made a motion to send **H 115** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Vander Woude** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1004:** **Sandy Evans**, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, presented **S 1004**, to increase the Board member compensation from \$50 per day to \$75 per day as an adjustment for inflation and in alignment with other professional licensing boards. Other changes are for clarification only.

For the record no one indicated their desire to testify

**MOTION:** **Rep. Hixon** made a motion to send **S 1004** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Hanks** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Chairman Wood** thanked **Mary Wonacott** for being the committee's page for the first half of the session.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

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Representative Wood  
Chair

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Irene Moore  
Secretary