

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 17, 2017

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Siddoway, Vice Chairman Hagedorn, Senators Davis, Hill, Winder, Lodge, Lakey, Stennett, and Rohn (Buckner-Webb)

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 Siddoway** called the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed the Committee and guests.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **The Gubernatorial Appointment of Amber Larna to the Bingo-Raffle Advisory Board.**

Amber Larna introduced herself to the Committee as Executive Director of the Blaine County Community Drug Coalition (Coalition). **Ms. Larna** informed the Committee she worked for nine years in Human Resources and Finance for the Blaine County Recreation District (District) where she participated in the District's silent auction and raffle fundraising. For the last two years she has been involved in the Coalition's main fundraiser, the raffle of a car to fund the Coalition's youth programs. Because of her fundraising activities, she was encouraged to apply to serve.

Chairman Siddoway inquired if **Ms. Larna** would have any conflicts of interest if she joined the Bingo-Raffle Advisory Board (Board). **Ms. Larna** answered no.

Senator Stennett stated she was pleased with **Ms. Larna's** experience and asked what **Ms. Larna** knows about the Board. **Ms. Larna** responded she reviewed the job description a couple of weeks ago, and she is aware the Board will meet quarterly to discuss raffle and gaming issues and to ensure raffles are operated correctly.

Chairman Siddoway thanked **Ms. Larna** for her testimony and advised the Committee would vote on her appointment at its next meeting.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **The Gubernatorial Appointment of Judy Taylor as Administrator for the Idaho Commission on Aging.**

Ms. Taylor introduced herself to the Committee as the Administrator for the Idaho Commission on Aging (Commission). The Commission was designated by the Governor in 1968 as a State unit on aging, and the Governor appoints the Administrator and a seven-member board of commissioners. **Ms. Taylor** commented the Commission is responsible to: 1.) develop the State plan that addresses the needs of seniors, vulnerable adults, persons with disabilities, and their caregivers; 2.) serve as an advocate within State government and the community for seniors; 3.) propose statutory changes and administrative rules; 4.) enter into funding agreements within the limits of appropriated funds to carry out programs and services for seniors; and 5.) administer and perform any other related functions or activities assigned by the Governor.

The Commission's mission is to provide services and support to improve the quality of life for seniors, vulnerable adults, and persons with disabilities so they can live independent, meaningful, and dignified lives within the community of their choice.

Ms. Taylor provided background on her experience, including more than 32 years as a registered and licensed public health nurse and over 13 years in health care leadership and management. She most recently served as the Associate Executive Director of the Idaho Board of Nursing where she participated in the State legislative process.

Senator Rohn mentioned he runs a research program on Alzheimer's disease and asked if Alzheimer's disease is an issue Ms. Taylor will address in the Administrator position. **Ms. Taylor** replied her father-in-law passed away from dementia and the issue is close to her family's heart. Her experience includes managing the locked Alzheimer's unit at the State Veteran's Home. She has reviewed the Commission's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan and noted there is an emphasis on supporting people with all forms of dementia. **Ms. Taylor** participates in the Idaho Caregiver Alliance; she agrees it is a priority to keep people with dementia safe in their homes for as long as possible and provide a homelike secure setting when needed.

Senator Davis asked Ms. Taylor how she became interested in and obtained the Administrator position. **Ms. Taylor** responded she became aware of the position via some contacts at the Department of Health and Welfare. The Governor at one of his staff meetings asked people to think of qualified candidates to fill the position upon the retirement of the former Administrator. She considers herself qualified as a clinician, a leader, and someone with experience in the legislative process, and she felt called to serve. After an interview process, she was selected by the Governor, and she is humbled and excited about being appointed.

Senator Davis inquired if Ms. Taylor left her position as Associate Executive Director at the Board of Nursing to accept the Administrator position. **Ms. Taylor** answered yes, she went directly from the Board of Nursing to the Commission.

Senator Lakey asked Ms. Taylor her philosophy on working with local elected officials and local senior centers. **Ms. Taylor** answered she sees the position as the face of the agency, and meeting and working with local leaders is very important. She is fortunate to inherit a very capable staff who can keep the office running smoothly, and her job will involve meeting with stakeholders, including seniors and people with disabilities, area agencies on aging, senior centers, and vendors providing direct services.

Senator Hagedorn thanked Ms. Taylor for her dedication and work serving veterans and commented his experience is that outreach to the 48 percent of Idahoans in rural areas has not been as good as it should be. He asked Ms. Taylor how she will communicate with that population. **Ms. Taylor** answered she served eight years on the board of directors of Rural Connection, an organization dedicated to improving rural nursing and the lives of rural residents, and she dedicated a lot of time to studying the problems of promoting health in rural Idaho and developing solutions. **Ms. Taylor** said she also served one year as interim director of patient care services at the former McCall Memorial Hospital, currently St. Luke's McCall, which gave her experience in providing needed services to rural Idahoans. She is specifically interested in how the Commission will fulfill its mission in rural Idaho and expects to gain insight from commissioners from the diverse geographic areas around the State.

Chairman Siddoway thanked Ms. Taylor for her service and willingness to accept the position and informed her the Committee would vote on the appointment at its next meeting.

RS 25274

Relating to Tobacco to revise the legal age for possession or use of tobacco.

Senator Fred Martin, District 15, introduced **RS 25274**. **Senator Martin** provided facts and statistics from the American Cancer Society about smoking, including: 1.) raising the age at which people can legally use and possess tobacco products can help communities curb tobacco use; 2.) tobacco use is the world's most preventable cause of death; 3.) cigarette smoking accounts for approximately 443,000 premature deaths in the U.S; 4.) thirty percent of cancer deaths and 80 percent of lung cancer deaths can be attributed to smoking; 5.) smoking accounts for more than \$193 billion in health care expenditures and productivity loss annually in the U.S.; and 6.) the teenage brain is more susceptible to nicotine effects and addictions.

Senator Martin informed the Committee that according to the American Lung Association, about 95 percent of daily smokers started smoking before the age of 21. By delaying access to tobacco products, it may be possible to decrease the likelihood of children and young adults starting to smoke, making for a healthier state. Raising the legal age to acquire tobacco to 21 makes sense.

MOTION:

Senator Rohn moved to send **RS 25274** to print. **Senator Hill** seconded the motion.

Senator Lakey stated he would support the motion. He understands the negative effects from the use of tobacco; however, those persons 18 to 21 are considered adults with responsibilities and choices.

The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 25282

A Senate Concurrent Resolution honoring Cathy Holland Smith upon her retirement.

Senator Hill introduced **RS 25282** and explained it is to honor Cathy Holland Smith, the Manager of the Division of Budget and Policy Analysis (Division) in the Legislative Services Office. Ms. Holland Smith will retire in June after 30 years of State service, including 23 years at the Division, where she worked closely with the Legislature.

MOTION:

Senator Davis moved to send **RS 25282** to print. **Senator Lodge** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PAGE
GRADUATION:**

Chairman Siddoway recognized Katherine (Kit) Bush and asked her to inform the Committee what she learned during her time at the Legislature and her future plans. **Ms. Bush** introduced herself and thanked the Committee for the experience. The concept of a bill becoming a law did not become real until she worked as a page. **Ms. Bush** said she plans to go to Belgium in August for a year abroad and after that she hopes to attend Brown University. **Ms. Bush** commented her father taught her the most important thing is to treat people with respect and she has seen that concept exemplified at the Legislature. **Ms. Bush** thanked the Committee for being great role models.

Senator Winder commented he hates to lose some of Idaho's best students to out-of-state schools and asked if Ms. Bush would consider returning to Idaho for graduate school. **Ms. Bush** replied that Brown is her dream school, but she also applied to the University of Idaho, and was offered a good scholarship, which she is considering..

Senator Lakey thanked Ms. Bush for helping the Committee and stated she has also been a great example with her positive attitude, being willing and able to help, and keeping a respectful approach. He asked if her experience as a page solidified or changed any of her plans for the future. **Ms. Bush** responded she is more aware of government because it was an election year, also high school seniors take government class, and she wanted to see government up close. After working as a page, she is considering a degree in political science and is hoping her exchange year will help her solidify what she wants to do.

Senator Hagedorn thanked Ms. Bush for her work. Ms. Bush is the only person he has ever known who has a relative in one of the four pictures in the Senate lounge, and he encouraged her to consider attending Idaho State University or Boise State University.

Senator Davis said he had the privilege of sponsoring both Ms. Bush and her brother. He asked what advice Ms. Bush would give to potential pages. **Ms. Bush** answered she wants to raise awareness of the page opportunity at her school because she would not have known about it except her brother had been a page.

Senator Stennett advised Ms. Bush to travel and go to school wherever she wants because that is part of the experience.

Chairman Siddoway presented Ms. Bush with a framed letter and a letter of recommendation. He also presented a gift from the Committee, framed photos of Ms. Bush's grandfathers who previously served in the Idaho Legislature.

Chairman Siddoway stated he hopes Ms. Bush will carry on the family legacy and that they will see more of her in the future.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, **Chairman Siddoway** adjourned the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Senator Siddoway
Chair

Twyla Melton, Secretary

Jeanne Jackson-Heim, Secretary