

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 15, 2018

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Packer, Representatives Perry, Vander Woude, Redman, Blanksma, Hanks, Kingsley, Zollinger, Wagoner, Chew, Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Redman, Rubel

GUESTS: Bridgette Baker, MD and Susie Pouliot, Id. Med. Assn.; Mary Sheridan, IDHW

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Packer** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5 and 6, 2018, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 472: **Rep. John Vander Woude**, District 22, presented **H 472**. Created in 2000, the Rural Physician Incentive Program (RPIP) was designed to bring doctors into rural areas. The current fee funding method is running out while the need increases. A state two-to-one match allows program continuation and better competes with surrounding states. Answering a question, Rep. Vander Woude said new physicians have \$170,000 to \$180,000 in school debt and currently receive a maximum of \$25,000 per year for four years.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **H 472** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Mary Sheridan, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Rural Health and Primary Care, RPIP Program Administration, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), testified **in support** of **H 472**. This allows the RPIP Board the chance to increase the number of physicians servicing federally designated health shortage areas. Fees come from Idaho students in the University of Utah and Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho (WWAMI) programs. They also receive priority RPIP application eligibility.

Answering questions, **Ms. Sheridan** said the program does not require physicians to stay if there are issues. Since its inception, five physicians have had to leave.

Bridgette Baker, Family Physician, Nampa, testified **in support** of **H 472**, sharing her experience as a participant in WWAMI and RPIP. She emphasized neighboring states have more competitive rates, offer up to four times the loan reimbursement, and can be accessed through commuting from Idaho.

Susie Pouliot, Idaho Medical Association, Chair, RPIP Board, testified **in support** of **H 472**. The board receives an average of twenty applications each year and can only give six to seven awards. A rural physician practice supports twelve jobs directly or indirectly, makes an economic contribution of \$1.9M, and generates about \$60,000 in state and local tax revenue. The additional funding can have a major impact in retaining physicians already going through Idaho educational programs.

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

**VOTE ON
MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Vice Chairman Packer** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Vander Woude** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chairman Wood turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Packer**.

- HCR 41:** **Chairman Wood**, District 27, presented **HCR 41**, to reappoint the Interim Committee on Employee Health Benefits. In 2017 the committee hired Mercer, a health care consulting firm, who submitted recommendations. The Department of Administration, who manages the group health insurance state employee program, will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to determine the next Third Party Administrator. Approval of **HCR 41** allows the Interim Committee to convene after the session and, with the help of Mercer, assure their recommendations are in the RFP. This will give state employees three new health care options. The maximum fiscal impact would be \$135,000.
- For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **HCR 41** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Vice Chairman Packer** turned the gavel over to **Chairman Wood**.
- RS 26157:** **Rep. Kelley Packer**, District 28, presented **RS 26157**, to reject **Docket No. 19-0101-1701** for the Idaho State Board of Dentistry, per their request.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to introduce **RS 26157** 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 26158:** **Rep. Kelley Packer**, presented **RS 26158** to reject the DHW Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI) program **Docket No. 16-0308-1701**, at their request.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to introduce **RS 26158** 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 26155:** **Rep. Sally Toone**, District 26, presented **RS 26155**. The 1965 Good Samaritan Statute protects citizens during any accident. This update covers situations beyond accidents by including the word "emergency."
- MOTION:** **Rep. Perry** made a motion to introduce **RS 26155. Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Chairman Wood** thanked the page, **Vaughn Schroeder**, for his work with committee.
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary