

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 08, 2019

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Lincoln Auditorium

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Wagoner, Representatives Vander Woude, Gibbs, Blanksma, Kingsley, Zollinger, Christensen, Green(2), Lickley, Chew, Rubel, Davis

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet(s) will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheet(s) will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

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

H 249: **Rep. John Vander Woude**, District 22, presented **H 249** to enhance the Medicaid expansion of Proposition 2. A waiver request is made of the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) director to limit retroactive eligibility from ninety to thirty days. A health assessment will be included to direct participants to the right medical provider. An Institution of Mental Disease (IMD) waiver request allows mental hospitals to qualify for Medicaid payments. A request is made to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to allow persons within 100-138% of the federal poverty limit (FPL) the choice to go onto Medicaid or stay with their own insurance plan and government assistance. The requested work requirement aligns with the existing Special Needs Assistance Program (SNAP), with one the caretaker exemption change to increase the child's age to eighteen. Included are sunsets for a decreased reimbursement rate and an unconstitutional court ruling.

Answering questions, **Rep. Vander Woude** said the health risk assessment highlights substance abuse needs without disqualification. The DHW estimated the work requirement impact is 13,000 of the 91,000 Medicaid participants. Persons may decide to stay on the exchange to keep their physician and subsidy. The work requirement will help those coming out of prison find employment. Similar work programs have demonstrated improved incomes when required, not voluntary. Participation in the work requirement does not hinder Medicaid qualification and exempts the assessment, unless the individual is not following the program. Volunteer work can also qualify as part of the work requirements.

Fred Birnbaum, Idaho Freedom Foundation, testified **in support** of the concepts of **H 249**. Traditional Medicaid has expanded to the point of consuming one out of three state dollars. Sideboards to reign in the growth are important. We need persons to remain on the exchange, rather than go on Medicaid, to keep from bankrupting the state.

Gina Johnson, Self, testified **in support** and **in opposition** to **H 249**, stating Medicaid-eligible participants want to work and including a self-employment option would help the disabled community. Self employment offers a flexible work option when intermittent medical issues impact a person's abilities. She asked for inclusion of profit and non-profit self employment.

Testifying in opposition to H 249 were **Alex LeBeau**, President, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry; **Rachel Sjobert**, Self; **Don Kemper**, Self; **Dr. Ted Epperley**, President, Idaho Association of Family Physicians, Vice Chairman, Idaho Primary Care Association, President, CEO, Family Medicine Residency of Idaho; **Kay Hummel**, Boise; **Mary McLaughlin**, Self; **Frank Monasterio**, Society of St. Vincent DePaul; **Lauren Necochea**, Idaho Voices for Children; **Dena Duncan**, Self; **Dr. Julie Duncan**, Family Resident Physician; **Brenda Foster**, Self; **Carl Isaksen**, Boise; **Lupe Wissel**, State Director, AARP; **Sara Toevs**, Idaho Family Caregiver Alliance, Idaho Alzheimer's Planning Group; **Joe Goode**, Self; **Brittany Shipley**, NAMI; **Dr. Martha Lund**, Retired OB-GYN, American University Women of Idaho; **Susie Pouliot**, CEO, Idaho Medical Association; **Sam (Yvonne) Sandmire**, Self; **Dr. Cynthia Brooke**, Self; **Tracy Olson**, Self; **Brie Katz**, Self; **Ian Bott**, Self; **Ashley Prince**, Self; **Marc Schlegel-Preheim**, Pastor, Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Mission Coordinator, Corpus Christi House; **Marisse DeThomas**, Self; **Dr. Laura Tirrell**, Self; **Andy Wen**, Medical Student; **Alan J. Hansen**, Self; **Enrique Munoz**, Centro de Comunidad y Justicia; **Rev. Sara Lawall**, Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; **Ingrid Brudenell**, Self, Idaho Nurses Association; **Mark Mering**, Self; **Ceci Thunes**, Idaho Behavioral Health Alliance; **Christine Pisani**, Executive Director, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities; **Anita Sloan**, Freshman, Boise State; **Brian Whitlock**, President, Idaho Hospital Association, Self; **David Lehman**, Bingham Memorial Hospital.

They expressed concern regarding the thirty-day look-back resulting in uncompensated care. Work requirements and other add-ons in other states have been unsuccessful, costly, created a secondary gap population, and led to lawsuits. The work requirements put seasonal workers at risk. A clean Medicaid expansion and a redesigned healthcare system will save money. There is already a barrier for work applicants aged fifty to sixty-four. Caregivers are involved beyond eighteen years of age. Everyone is entitled to health care and economic security, especially women, who face wage discrimination. This adds administrative costs and impacts coverage for existing participants. CMS waivers could delay implementation of the expansion.

Let the expansion play out before making any changes. The fiscal note does not account for any continued catastrophic or indigent cost. Some persons who do not believe they have mental illnesses do not apply for mental health services. Affordable and prompt health care is a benefit to more than the sick. The additional paperwork is an unfair burden to minimum wage workers, who face daily stress and may not be able to read or understand the requirement. Disabled persons who proudly work a few hours would be ineligible. Disabled persons who cannot work depend on Medicaid access to medications and physicians to live a normal life.

Unforeseen injuries can lead to work loss until the person is healed. Main caregiver work requirements would adversely impact continued home care and could lead to expensive institutional care. Students would struggle to meet the reporting requirements, impacting their education. Health care coverage is not always provided by employers.

Chairman Wood called a recess of the committee at 10:34 a.m.

Chairman Wood resumed the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Testifying in opposition to H 249 were **Lori Burelle**, Southwest Chapter, National Organization for Women; **Nancy Harris**, on behalf of **Shelly Blue**; **Andrea Christopher**, on behalf of **Hillary Hagen**; **Carmel Croch**, Self, District 19; **Jim Baugh**, Disability Rights of Idaho; **Caroline Merritt**, Close the Gap; **Fritz Hummel**, Self; **Todd Achilles**, CEO, Edge Networks; **Cory Chappell**, Self; **Nora Carpenter**, President, CEO, United Way of Treasure Valley; **Steve Koenig**, Self; **Karen Smith**, Self, District 16.

They shared their concerns regarding hindering persons working nontraditional or multiple jobs in order to provide for their families. Research shows Medicaid access improves lives and eliminates financial catastrophes. A clean implementation is fiscally better than adding costs through work requirements. Cancer survivors and patients cannot work due to intense treatment side effects. Health coverage impacts cancer survivability.

The IMD waiver is good. Persons with a psychiatric disorder are less likely to cope with a paperwork burden. Many disabilities occur suddenly and may take over ninety days before the person is physically able to apply for benefits. Polls show Idahoans would rather the sidebar costs be used for repairing the state's infrastructure. The DHW needs to be investigated before doing anything on the Medicaid issue.

Support was expressed to remove barriers to employment, not add more. More restrictive veteran benefits have created a shift to Medicaid benefits. Issues arise when self-employed accounts receivables are not paid immediately. Rural availability of jobs could require selling homes at deflated costs to move to dense job markets.

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

Chairman Wood thanked everyone who testified and said **H 249** will be taken up at a future time.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary