

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Wagoner, Representatives Vander Woude, Gibbs, Blanksma, Kingsley, Zollinger, Christensen, Lickley, Remington, Chew, Rubel, Davis

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Blanksma, Chew, Christensen

GUESTS: Melinda Smyser, Office Drug Policy; Meeghan Sheppard, Office of the Governor

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

HJM 12: **Rep. Caroline Nilsson Troy**, District 5, presented **HJM 12**, to spotlight drug trafficking in the United States, concerns regarding insufficient regulation, and law enforcement's inability to address fentanyl trafficking from China and Mexico. Strong trafficking corridors exist through Idaho Falls and Coeur d'Alene.

Melinda Smyser, Governor's Office of Drug Policy, testified **in support** of **HJM 12**. Because it is absorbed through the skin, fentanyl the size of a grain of sugar can kill a person. Idaho heroin drug seizures are growing, as evidence by five large quantity heroin arrests this year. Fentanyl is used to cut heroin, create more product, and increase product strength. The absorption danger extends to first responders and the general public. As a result, the Idaho State Police (ISP) are no longer doing roadside testing. Drug prevention starts with families, individuals, and communities. Idaho needs more awareness and education of substance use. Work is being done by her office to address prevention for 18 to 25 year-olds.

Answering questions, **Ms. Smyser** said the ISP has disposal procedures which include sending product to out-of-state testing facilities. Our youth do not perceive any danger and need to be educated.

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

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Wagoner** made a motion to send **HJM 12** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Troy** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

The committee meeting continued with a discussion regarding the Department of Health and Welfare budget request and committee recommendations for the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC). **Chairman Wood** will present the recommendations to JFAC on February 12, 2020.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary