

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 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:** None

GUESTS: Nicki Chopski, Board of Pharmacy; Julie Hammon, DHW; Pamela Myhre, Shatterproof & Community

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

MOTION: **Rep. Davis** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, February 4, and 11, 2020, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Wood introduced **Asher Dixon**, the committee's page for the second half of the session.

RS 27728: **Rep. Paul Amador**, District 4, presented **RS 27728**. This proposed legislation clarifies background checks for owners and operators of child care facilities. The listed denial offenses are expanded in alignment with federal regulations to include domestic violence, registration on a sex offender registry, and any felony drug-related offense within the last five years. An additional denial, suspension, and revocation appeal avenue is added. Facility health standards are updated to the current safe sleep practices recommended for infants to twelve months.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Wagoner** made a motion to introduce **RS 27728**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 27696: **Rep. John Vander Woude**, District 22, presented **RS 27696**, proposed legislation to ensure at least one parent or guardian of a minor, who is under the care of a doctor and healthcare facility, is notified 48 hours prior to an order to withhold life-sustaining treatment is instituted. The parents are allowed fifteen days to move the child to another facility. The fiscal note is an estimate based on the average amount of care, health insurance, financial status, and any eligibility for state or federal programs.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to introduce **RS 27696**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

HJM 13: **Rep. Jake Ellis**, District 15, presented **HJM 13**. Idahoans face restrictions and barriers when seeking help for a family member addicted to opioids. Suboxone is an effective method to alleviate withdrawal symptoms and is part of medication assisted treatment (MAT) programs. Removal of the access restrictions are requested of the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and Idaho's Congressional Delegation.

Pamela Myhre, District 15 Constituent, testified **in support** of **HJM 13**, sharing her family's struggle to find help for an addicted family member. Although a deadly illness, addiction does not receive the same treatment support as other illnesses, like cancer. Of the Idahoans suffering from addiction, only 8% receive treatment, with only 16.8% of Idaho treatment facilities offering MAT. This is the third worst national rate. With the help of Suboxone, her family member is no longer addicted, has a job, and has a new life. Other families have not been as lucky. This is a step to make changes and achieve better outcomes for loved ones.

Rep. Ellis stated Idaho is not alone. The elimination of the X waiver is a national trend because it's restriction has caused a glitch in the federal law.

Nicki Chopski, Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy, was invited to answer questions. She explained there is abuse potential with Suboxone. The long-term effects are similar to many of the opioids. There is an increased risk of overdose when it is combined with alcohol or other drugs. There are some warnings regarding liver issues when liver damage is an existing condition. She has been unable to find specific side effects from long-term buprenorphine use. The existing lack of MAT programs can lead to Suboxone diversion for individuals wanting to avoid withdrawal symptoms. Euphoric effects are only seen in people who use Suboxone when they do not have opioid dependencies. This product is available in long-acting injectable or implantable forms, decreasing the diversion risk.

Rep. Remington commented a wrap-around program is needed to assist individuals who are no longer addicted to opioids. He was concerned the problems experienced with Methadone will be repeated with this product.

MOTION: **Rep. Rubel** made a motion to send **HJM 13** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

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

Answering committee questions, **Rep. Ellis** said the Joint Memorial is the only tool available to give a strong voice to Idaho's delegation. He hopes the Governor's office will take the next step through the Opioid Drug Work Force.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Wood** called for a vote on the motion to send **HJM 13** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Ellis** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary