

MINUTES  
**HOUSE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 19, 2020

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Dixon, Vice Chairman DeMordaunt, Representatives Collins, Crane, Palmer, Barbieri, Stevenson, Armstrong, Clow, Andrus, Furniss, Nichols, Raymond, Kiska, Smith, Berch, Green

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Jim Jones; Matt Andrew, ITLA; Bryan Smith; Kim Blough; Jeremy Jones; Alex Warner, Idaho Medical Debt; Deana Young; Byron Wilkinson; Greg Ferch; Bradley Bell; Carlos Hernandez; Doug Farr, IMD; Sky Ipson, Idaho Collections Association; Katie Davenport; Jack Lassetter; Pamela Denson; Shaun Bonney; Carma Ferrar, Advantage Financial Services; Gretchen Fors; Aaron Eddington, Melaleuca; Frank VanderSloot, CEO, Melaleuca; Bryan Zollinger

**Chairman Dixon** called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

**H 515:** **Rep. Monks** presented **H 515**, legislation regarding Idaho law allowing medical debt collectors to engage in harmful collection practices that damage Idaho citizens. Rep. Monks invited **Katie Hart**, Melaleuca, to explain the legislation. Consumers often find themselves in collection actions for debts they were unaware of, from healthcare providers they do not recognize. Once in collections, current Idaho law enables excessive attorney's fees and fails to provide judges with clear guidance to combat abuses of the collections process. The Act encourages medical providers to be timely and transparent and provides for fair and reasonable cost and fees related to medical debt collection.

Those speaking **in support**; **Jim Jones**, Doctor of Physical Therapy; **Alex Warner**, Idaho Medical Debt; **Deana Young**; **Byron Wilkinson**; **Bradley Bell**; **Carlos Hernandez**; **Doug Farr**, Attorney; **Frank VanderSloot**, Melaleuca; **Aaron Eddington**, Melaleuca. Testimonies were heard regarding bills never received going to collections, and receiving bills from providers patients were unaware they even owed money. Patients have the right to know to whom they owe money and to receive the statements in a timely fashion. Collection fees become overwhelming very quickly, and can devastate an individual or family.

Those speaking **in opposition**; **Bryan Smith**, Attorney; **Greg Ferch**, Chiropractor; **Sky Ipson**, Attorney; **Katie Davenport**; **Jack Lassetter**, MD; **Pamela Denson**, MD; **Shaun Bonney**, Attorney; **Carma Ferrar**, Collection Agency Owner; **Rep. Bryan Zollinger**, Attorney. Those testifying expressed concerns with time constraints in billing, the ability to collect from non-paying patients, and providers wondered if there would be any recourse to recover payment for services rendered. Insurance companies determine the amount doctors are paid for services, and paper work is egregious.

**MOTION:** **Rep. DeMordaunt** made a motion to send **H 515** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Barbieri** made a substitute motion to send **H 515** to General Orders.

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT  
REQUEST:**

**Rep. Barbieri** made a unanimous consent request to withdraw the substitute motion. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

**Rep. Crane** made a substitute motion to send **H 515** to the floor with NO recommendation.

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT  
REQUEST:**

**Rep. Crane** made a unanimous consent request to withdraw the substitute motion. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 15 AYE, 2 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. DeMordaunt, Collins, Crane, Palmer, Stevenson, Armstrong, Clow, Andrus, Nichols, Raymond, Kiska, Smith, Berch, Green, and Chairman Dixon. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Barbieri and Nichols. Rep. Monks** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

---

Representative Dixon  
Chair

---

Jayne Feik  
Secretary