

Chairman Martin, Senators, my name is Julie Hart, and I'm here today representing Ideal Option.

H531 is straightforward in nature and purpose. If passed, H531 would add the Federal Drug Administration's definition to Idaho's telemedicine act.

I will walk you through the changes and the need for these changes. You should have in your packets, a document that helps to illuminate this issue. The document breaks down the federal law mentioned in Idaho Code 54-5707. It might be helpful to have that document side by side the proposed legislation as I walk you through.

- Title 21 of United States Code deals with the federal controlled substance act.
- Section 802 defines terms for the federal law.
- Subsection 54 defines how telemedicine may be used when prescribing controlled substances via telemedicine.
- A – G describes the conditions under which telemedicine can be prescribed.
- Idaho adopted only section A. Section A allows controlled substances prescribed using telemedicine to occur only if the patient is residing in a hospital or research clinic.

Rather than striking (A) from Idaho code, we listened to stakeholders like the members of this committee, the Board of Pharmacy, the Board of Medicine, the Department of Health & Welfare Medicaid Division, multiple Health Insurance Companies, and many addiction treatment providers. The concerns shared by stakeholders are reflected in the language you see before you today.

The Board of Medicine requested language adding the F.D.A. definition of Medication-Assisted Treatment or "M.A.T.", to narrow the scope to this section of code even further.

If passed, the law this bill would say, "no controlled substance can be prescribed using telemedicine in Idaho unless the patient is residing in a hospital or research clinic, or unless the provider prescribes medications approved by the federal food and drug administration for medication-assisted treatment (MAT)."

The change will allow doctors, regardless of proximity to patient, to prescribe Medication-Assisted Therapy. M.A.T. therapy is a best practice in addiction treatment using medication in COMBINATION with behavioral health services providing an individualized approach to the treatment of substance use disorder.

I have one of our doctors here today to help provide technical assistance. Dr. Mattis is an Idaho born, WAMI trained doctor living and working right here in Idaho. Unless the committee has questions for me, that concludes my testimony on H531.