

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 14, 2021  
**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.  
**PLACE:** Room EW40  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman Crane, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Scott, Andrus, Young, Furniss, Hanks, Skaug, Gannon, Mathias  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None  
**GUESTS:** None

**Vice-Chairman Armstrong** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**RS 28199:** **Rep. Dixon** presented **RS 28199** to further define Idaho's Parental Rights statutes to state that an emergency order, disaster declaration, etc. cannot be deemed a compelling reason for the State to take away parental rights and remove children from the home during a State of Emergency, such as a natural disaster. Last year, there was concern that children could be removed from their home.

**Rep. Dixon** responded to questions, saying if parents are separated from their children in times of disaster or emergency and cannot be immediately reunited, the children would be kept together. They would ideally be placed with family or friends, not placed in foster care.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Monks** made a motion to introduce **RS 28199**. During discussions, Committee concerns were raised whether or not the legislation included both a declaration and an order. **Rep. Dixon** pointed out that Line 18 includes both a declaration and an order. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 28229:** **Chairman Crane** presented **RS 28229** lifting the restriction on gatherings of 10 or more individuals under the Governor's Emergency Declaration. This legislation would allow families and classmates to attend sporting events and championship games. It would ensure students may attend milestone events such as prom, plays and other school events. This legislation would also allow attendance at concerts and other public and private events.

**Chairman Crane** stated this concurrent resolution conveys what the Governor has done is not legal. In the case of sporting events, under the current declaration each athlete from the home team may invite two guests to attend each event. As a consequence, this poses a challenge for families with multiple children. Parents have to choose to attend one child's event and leave other children at home or they miss one child's event to stay home with those who cannot take care of themselves. Grandparents and other extended family members may be excluded, in addition to friends and schoolmates

**Chairman Crane** said the State Board of Education, Superintendents, schools and parents should be able to give input for their own schools and districts and work together to set gathering policies that make sense for them. As Americans, we take daily risks. People should be able to choose if they want to attend gatherings with more than 10 people, or not.

While State leadership wants "teeth" in enforcement. No arrests have been heard of relating to noncompliance, despite the limited gathering mandate or city/town mask mandates.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Hanks** made a motion to introduce **RS 28299**. During discussion, several committee members indicated this restriction has been one of the top complaints by constituents. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

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Representative Crane  
Chair

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Kelly Staskey  
Secretary