

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 25, 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: Naomi Watson, citizen, Scott Watson, Self, Tammy Payne, Right to Life of Idaho, Benje Graves, citizen, Ed Fish, citizen, Linda Thomas, Stanton Healthcare, Blaine Conzatti, FPA Idaho, Branden Purk, citizen, Karen Simkins, citizen, Paula Durst, citizen, Christian Welp, Catholic Church, Paul Smith, the unborn, Don Martin, the pre-born, Shellie Martin, the pre-born, David Ripley, Idaho Chooses Life, Casey Baker, EFI, Margie Baker, EFI, Pro Life, citizen, Arlene Herndon, citizen, Shane Womack, citizen, Paul Smith, sales, Joseph Smith, citizen, Mone Miller, Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence, Lauren Bramwell, ACLU of Idaho, Samuel Schaefer, All Things New - Abolish Abortion Now, Paige McMahon, citizen, Anne Stevenson, citizen, Paul Van Noy, Candlelight Christian Fellowship and Kootenai County Ministerial Association, Cameron Needham, citizen, Yarit Rodriguez, citizen, Rick Small, FreeTheStates.com, Karyn Levin, citizen, Rach Chisausky, citizen, Jennifer James, citizen, Christina Patterson, citizen, Sarae Simpson, citizen, Misti Tolman, Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii, Sam Gilbert, citizen, Sean Bohnet, citizen, Chelsea Gaona-Lincoln, Legal Voice, Eric Seeley, citizen, Alexa Roitman, citizen, Jennufer Wagner, Abolish Abortion Idaho, Julie Duncan, citizen, Juda Myers, CHOICES4LIFE, James Silberman, Free the States, Rusty Thomas, Operation Save American, March Rietma, citizen, Shellie Martin, citizen,

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

MOTION: **Rep Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes from February 17, 2021, February 22, 2021 and February 23, 2021. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 220: **Rep. Skaug** presented **H 220**, legislation which would ensure taxpayer dollars do not support the abortion industry by prohibiting the expenditure of taxpayer dollars to abortion providers. Rep. Skaug stated it would prohibit public contracting or participating in any commercial transaction with an abortion provider. He said the legislation would also prohibit the use of any public asset or employee to procure, counsel in favor, refer to, or perform an abortion and that these prohibitions would apply to all units of government in Idaho including state, county, municipal, public health districts, and public school districts. He added intentional non-compliance would be subject to prosecution under the state's misuse of public funds statute and Medicaid is not implicated in this legislation. Currently unlimited funds may be given to taxpayer funded programs. This bill will prevent Idaho schools and colleges from using Title 10 funds.

In response to questions, **Rep. Skaug** indicated emergency contraception would be distributed by colleges and universities in cases of rape. Hospitals and medicaid are also exempted. Unfortunately, it is a political reality. He said he is not aware of any Idaho hospitals currently performing elective abortions. This bill does not prevent abortion but does not let tax payer dollars be used for this purpose.

Blaine Conzotti- Family Policy Alliance of Idaho, testified **in support** of **H 220**. He stated this bill deals with family planning funds-Title 10 family planning funds and state and local taxes. This bill would stop colleges and universities from providing students abortifacients. Idaho college students may receive abortifacients and counseling in their public health centers on campus. Mr. Conzotti said this legislature should exercise its power of preemption to ensure that this does not happen. This is an opportunity to protect the pre born babies and Idaho children.

In response to questions, **Mr. Conzotti** said legal realities are that the courts would stop this legislation without the exemptions. By passing this, it would allow a hospital to be contracted with fed funds to provide abortion, and legally, Idaho hospitals are currently allowed to perform abortions. Some hospitals do not allow abortion due to social pressures and religious beliefs. This legislation does not change anything for hospitals.

Those speaking **in opposition** because **H 220** would remove access to healthcare and make it less affordable were **Mone Miller**, Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, **Lauren Bramwell**, ACLU Idaho, **Paula Durst**, citizen, **Paige McMahon**, citizen, **Cameron Needham**, citizen, **Yarit Rodriguez**, citizen, **Karyn Lavin**, citizen, **Mistie Tolman** Director, Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii, **Chelsea Gaona-Lincoln**, Legal Voice, and **Rachel Chisausky**, doctor, self.

Those speaking **in opposition** because the legislation didn't remove the ability to perform abortions in hospitals, made an exception for rape, and didn't go far enough to prevent all abortions were **Scott Watson**, citizen, **Benje Graves**, citizen, **Ed Fisher**, citizen, **Paul Smith**, the unborn, **Don Martin**, the pre-born, **Casey Baker**, citizen, **David Wripley**, Idaho Chooses Life, **Samuel Schaefer**, All Things New Ministry, **Scott Herndon**, pre-born neighbors, **Arlene Herndon**, citizen, **Rick Small**, citizen, **Paul Van Noy**, citizen, **Naomi Watson**, citizen, **Sean Bohnet**, citizen.

Those testifying **in support** of **H 220** were **Tammy Payne**, Right to Life of Idaho, **Christian Welp**, Catholic Church, **Karen Simkins**, citizen, **Brandon Durst**, citizen, and **Linda Thomson**, Stanton Healthcare. They all spoke positively to the legislation, stating Planned Parenthood shouldn't be considered healthcare, therefore it should not receive funding, and while it cannot save all unborn lives, it can save some.

MOTION:

Rep. Young made a motion to send **H 220** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. A roll call vote was requested.

In closing, **Rep. Skaug** stated this bill does not target any particular entity but it will save some lives. Nothing in the bill establishes the right to abortion. It does not expand the abortions already taking place. He said fungible money allows abortion referrals to be stopped and some lives can be saved now.

During discussion, a desire was expressed to get rid of aborting and killing children and this bill does not go far enough. The best that can be done to educate people. Appreciation was given by a committee member for acknowledging women have the right to choose abortion. It was stated the legislature cannot do good with a little bit of poison in it. Unfortunately, Medicaid cannot be eliminated. This bill will stop public funds and inhibit the ability to council for abortion. It is a step in the right direction. It was expressed saving 25% more babies is better than not saving any. Save as many as possible, instead of none.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE and 5 NAY. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Crane, Armstrong, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Andrus, Young, Furniss, Skaug. Voting in opposition of the motion: Reps. Scott, Hanks, Gannon, Mathias. Rep. Skaug will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Representative Crane
Chair

Kelly Staskey
Secretary