

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, March 01, 2021
- TIME:** 9:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW20
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Vander Woude, Representatives Gibbs, Blanksma, Kingsley, Christensen, Lickley, Erickson, Ferch, Mitchell, Chew, Rubel, Davis
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
- GUESTS:** Angela Lindig, Idaho Parents Unlimited; Laura Wallis, Parent; Brittany Shipley, NAMI-Wood River Valley; Jennifer Zielinski, Idaho Anti-Trafficking Coalition; Kent Kunz, Jared Papa, and Nate Thompson, Idaho Academy of Physician Assistants; Lee Flinn, ID Suicide Prevention Hotline; Howard Belodoff, Self
- Chairman Wood** called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Davis** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2021, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 28682:** **Rep. Laurie Lickley**, District 25, presented **RS 28682**. The federal 988 hotline roll-out is scheduled for June 2022. In preparation, this proposed concurrent resolution is a directive for the development of the necessary framework. Although there is no direct fiscal impact, the national and state roll out will lead to a demand in services.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Erickson** made a motion to introduce **RS 28682**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- H 233:** **Rep. Marco Erickson**, District 33, presented **H 233**. This is a part of the Children's Mental Health (MH) Act. A new section of code prevents families who seek services through hospitals for their child's MH crisis from receiving a child protection order. This section does not interfere with child protection cases. The Department of Health and Welfare is collaborating and working to internally fix the issues.
- Laura Wallis**, Ammon, testified **in support** of **H 233**. Although much progress has been made in creating a children's MH system, there still remains a serious problem when parents seek acute care for their child. Medical facilities use the threat of a child protection investigation to convince parents to remove their child from inpatient MH treatment. These parents, seeking help when their child's illness has exceeded their ability, want medical intervention and services, not threats. The current approach leads to a fear-based removal of the child from all MH services. **H 233** moves our system towards MH access solutions and away from blame.
- Laura Wallis** read the testimony of **Kristina Shallies**, who is **in support** of **H 233**, Ms. Shallies indicated a substantiated case of neglect or abuse will cause parents working in social services to lose their jobs. This adds extra stress to the families and further prevents parents from seeking support for themselves and their children.
- Brittany Shipley**, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Wood River Valley, testified **in support** of **H 233**. She shared her struggles meeting the MH needs of her child. These children need help before reaching adulthood so they can become the best version of themselves. Families trying to find the best care possible do not need the fear of charges of neglect.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Gibbs** made a motion to send **H 233** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Jennifer Zielinski, Idaho Anti-Trafficking Coalition, testified **in support of H 233**. Charging parents who request treatment or out-of-home placement for their child is devastating to the entire family and community. Families in this situation face stigma, judgement, misunderstanding, and secondary trauma.

Howard Belodoff, the court-appointed representative in the Jeff D Settlement case, testified **in support of H 233**. This provides families with the opportunity to request help for their child without the involvement of the child protective system. He said the Statement of Purpose's reference to the Child Protection Act should be changed to the Children's MH Services Act. This legislation helps families get through a traumatic situation without more trauma.

For the record, no one else indicated their desire to testify in person or remotely.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Wood called for a vote on the motion to send **H 233** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Erickson** will sponsor the bill on the floor. **Chairman Wood** requested **Rep. Erickson** change the Statement of Purpose to replace the Child Protection Act with the Children's Mental Health Services Act.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST:

Chairman Wood made a unanimous consent request to have **S 1093** presented. There being no objection, the request was granted.

S 1093:

Rep. Vander Woude, District 22, presented **S 1093**. Physician Assistants (PAs) are a vital part of the medical community. This legislation allows them to have a contract with a facility instead of a physician, allowing for more use of PAs.

MOTION:

Rep. Blanksma made a motion to send **S 1093** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Kent Kunz, on behalf of the Idaho Academy of PAs, testified **in support of S 1093**.

Nathan Thompson, PA, St. Luke's, on behalf of the Idaho Academy of PAs, testified **in support of S 1093**. The amendments allow PAs to serve their patients without undue administrative and regulatory burdens while maintaining appropriate oversight levels. This improves rural access to care where it is difficult to comply with the current requirements. This does not change the PA scope of practice or role. The changes are thoughtful, balanced and vetted by all parties working together in good faith.

Answering a committee question, **Mr. Thompson** said the legislation includes some flexibility to address the different practice settings of smaller clinics and large health systems. The collaborative practice agreement makes PAs responsible for the standard of care. These agreements remain at the practice level, although the Board of Medicine can pull them, if needed.

Jared Papa, Rural Health Representative, Idaho Academy of PAs, testified **in support of S 1093**. The current requirement of two supervising physicians can be difficult in rural areas. This enhances and improves rural community care by modernizing the current language and including PA collaboration. It reduces the burden on the PAs, the physicians, and other health care professionals.

For the record no one else indicated their desire to testify in person or remotely.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Wood called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1093** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Vander Woude** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chairman Wood put the committee at ease.

Chairman Wood called the committee to order.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:**

Chairman Wood made a unanimous consent request to move the presentation of **H 234** to the committee meeting on Thursday, March 4, 2021. There being no objection, the request was granted.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary