

MINUTES
SENATE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 27, 2022

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Patrick, Vice Chairman Souza, Senators Martin, Lakey, Guthrie, Agenbroad, Riggs, Ward-Engelking, and Burgoyne

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Patrick** called the meeting of the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee (Committee) to order at 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Riggs** moved to approve the Minutes of January 18, 2022. **Vice Chair Souza** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Chairman Patrick noted the Minutes Approval of January 20, 2022 would be heard after the Your Health Idaho (YHI) presentation.

PRESENTATION: **Your Health Idaho. Pat Kelly**, Executive Director, YHI, highlighted the changes and outlined the year for YHI (Attachment 1). He gave an extensive summary of the key accomplishments, 2021 by the numbers, the year in review, open enrollment 2022, and looking ahead.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Patrick** remarked YHI has saved Idaho \$41 million. He asked Mr. Kelly to explain how YHI had added revenue in comparison to other states. **Mr. Kelly** stated savings are difficult to measure as not all states earn revenue in the same way YHI does. Some states have a portion of state funding with a fixed amount per person.

Senator Ward-Engelking related an incident where a constituent had been on the phone with YHI for several days regarding insurance coverage. The insurance company threatened to cancel the policy. **Mr. Kelly** reported YHI has worked with the Idaho Department of Insurance (IDOI) and the insurance carriers to ensure no one would be cancelled due to a backlog.

In response to a question from Vice Chair Souza, **Mr. Kelly** gave a brief overview of the impact the job market had on YHI with respect to those who have left the job market. **Mr. Kelly** noted there was a slight increase in enrollment on the Exchange due to this phenomenon.

Senator Martin queried how the Idaho State Exchange compared to those states using the federal system. **Mr. Kelly** noted the state-based Exchange was about local control. The big differential in Idaho is the partnership with the IDOI and bringing in competition that is unprecedented for the size of Idaho. Agents and brokers are the cornerstone of the success of YHI, almost doubling the rate of agent engagement compared to any other state across the country.

Senator Agenbroad stated \$41 million was saved by Idahoans relative to the assessment fee compared to the federal program. He queried what was

the current assessment fee in Idaho and the current federal assessment. **Mr. Kelly** reported the federal fee for fiscal year (FY) 2022 is 2.75 percent and YHI is 2.29 percent. **Senator Agenbroad** asked what type of impact the technical changes had on the assessment fee. **Mr. Kelly** explained the technology change allows real time eligibility on the Exchange. He stated he was not anticipating any change in the assessment fee, but will re-evaluate the fee next year.

MINUTES
APPROVAL:

Senator Lakey moved to approve the Minutes of January 20, 2022. **Vice Chair Souza** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Patrick** adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

Senator Patrick
Chair

Linda Kambeitz
Secretary