

MINUTES
JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 16, 2022
TIME: 8:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room C310
MEMBERS: Senators Crabtree, VanOrden (Bair), Grow, Woodward, Lent, Riggs, Cook, Ward-Engelking
Representatives Co-chairman Youngblood, Troy, Horman, Amador, Syme, Bundy, Giddings, Nate, Green, Nash
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Senators Co-chairman Agenbroad, Nye

Co-Chairman Youngblood called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Sen. Patti Anne Lodge, co-Chair of the Joint Millennium Fund Committee, presented the committee report. She noted the original purpose of the Millennium Fund was to provide more support for anti-smoking efforts.

Sen. Lodge stated on February 14, 2022, **Rep. Troy** made a motion, seconded by **Sen. Burgoyne**, to support the Governor's recommendation for Project Filter (\$2.7M), tobacco compliance checks (\$160K), Medicaid administration and medical management (\$245K), enhanced Medicaid (\$1.9M), expansion Medicaid plan (\$14M), staff for the Attorney General (\$198K), and investment fees for the State Treasurer (\$80K); and add additional funding for cessation programming at public health districts (\$779K), prevention programming at public health districts (\$1M), production and marketing for prevention through a subcontract by Project Filter with Idaho Public Television (\$310K), support for Community Recovery Centers (\$900K), and additional supplies and equipment through Project Filter (\$300K). The total recommendation was for \$22.5M and would leave \$587K in the fund. The motion passed the committee without dissent.

Sen. Lodge emphasized the committee's concerns about vaping and related health problems; the committee determined to concentrate anti-vaping support at community recovery centers by providing additional supplies and equipment through Project Filter.

Sen. Lodge reported the committee passed a second motion, moved by **Sen. Burgoyne** and seconded by **Sen. Riggs**, to convey to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) and the Governor's Office the committee wanted to see less money spent on Medicaid in the future, as it is not in keeping with the original goal of prevention and cessation of tobacco use. This motion passed the committee without dissent.

In response to a JFAC committee question, **Mr. Dave Jeppesen**, Director, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), explained the \$14M to Medicaid would be used for provider rate reimbursement. He noted DHW expects providers to share smoking cessation information with their clients.

Rep. Green expressed her appreciation for the Millennium Fund Committee's commitment to local public health districts. She noted one-on-one services provided at the local level are imperative to these prevention efforts.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:**

Rep. Troy requested and it was granted by unanimous consent, the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee accepted the report of the Joint Millennium Fund Committee.

Sen. Ward-Engelking thanked **Sen. Lodge** for her leadership in promoting the importance of tobacco-use prevention, especially as young people begin vaping at much younger ages.

Rep. Vander Woude, Vice-Chair of the House Health and Welfare Committee, presented the report from the committee. Rep. Vander Woude explained the committee's concerns regarding using ARPA funds for the various requests in the DHW budget.

1. The committee supports the HeadStart program but prefers to use the General Fund rather than federal ARPA funding; it has concerns about the need for ongoing funding after the initial three years.
2. The committee noted the DHW request for a onetime \$4.4M in APRA funding for the 9-8-8 Crisis Line. This request will set up the program but doesn't address necessary ongoing funding.
3. The committee supports the \$1.8M request for Recovery Centers, but suggests funding \$900K over two years rather than \$600K over three years.
4. The committee understands the need for provider rate increases and supports the DHW budget proposal.
5. The committee expressed some concern about the DHW request for additional FTPs despite the current large vacancy rate at the agency.
6. The committee strongly supports additional funding for foster care.
7. The committee supports the requests for SWITC funding.
8. The committee passed a resolution recommending designating some ARPA monies into a grant fund to allow rural districts to upgrade their ambulance services.

Finally, **Rep. Vander Woude** reiterated the committee's concerns about using ARPA funds for ongoing costs.

Sen. Fred Martin, Chairman of the Senate Health & Welfare, stated his appreciation for the amount of the information in the Legislative Budget Book. He recounted the history of suicide prevention in Idaho and noted the trend line of statistically fewer suicides. Sen. Martin encouraged the funding necessary for the 9-8-8 suicide prevention hotline.

Sen. Todd Lakey, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary & Rules Committee, stated general support for the budget requests of the agencies working with the committee. He noted unique opportunities with available onetime funds. He stated the committee's support for the Department of Correction plan for modernization and new buildings at the state prison. This includes support for the following items:

1. Improvement of the wastewater facility to enable future expansion and remodeling plans for the state prison.
2. New building and remodeling existing buildings to expand capacity for women and low-risk offenders, which will enable the return of out-of-state prisoners.
3. Community Reentry Centers around the state.
4. Additional FTPs in probation and parole staff.
5. Upgrades to the computer dispatch center and upgrades to the POST Academy.
6. Support for anti-fentanyl efforts and other drug-interdiction work.
7. Support for the request for the helicopter and related costs.

Sen. Lakey stated the committee's support for additional judges, particularly district judges. To that end, the committee supports an increase in compensation for judges.

Sen. Lakey noted the Department of Juvenile Corrections has requests tied to behavioral health, with the intention of diverting those individuals from entering the system in the first place. The committee supports these efforts and compares these programs to adult crisis centers.

Rep. Greg Chaney, Chairman of the House Judiciary, Rules, & Administration Committee, reported the committee's findings. The committee overwhelmingly supports the youth reentry center in Pocatello. He noted the reentry center is not attracting new paroled individuals to a given community; rather, the reentry centers simply assist in transitioning the return of formerly incarcerated persons to their own communities.

The committee supports the construction of the new women's prison, the wastewater lagoon improvements, and other facility maintenance costs requests, as well as supporting funding for the SICI east dorm expansion. The committee supports funding these requests, with the stipulation sending prisoners to out-of-state beds would cease as soon as the new facilities are up and running.

The committee supports the Governor's recommendation for \$6M in assistance for domestic violence victims and the transportation costs for probation and parole. Finally, the committee supports the technology improvement requests from the Idaho Supreme Court.

Rep. Chaney reported the committee was less supportive of the request from the Idaho State Police for a helicopter. The concerns centered around the ability to deploy the helicopter to all areas of the State. The committee noted roughly 10% of trooper positions in the Idaho State Police remain unfilled.

Rep. Chaney stated his personal support for higher salaries for law enforcement positions. He noted extra pressures on correctional officers and police officers in the current environment.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 a.m. in order to wait for the final committee chairman's report.

Co-Chairman Youngblood brought the committee back to order at 9:05 a.m.

Rep. James Holtzclaw, Chairman of the House Commerce and Human Resources Committee, presented the committee findings. The committee voted to support the following budget requests: \$50M toward childcare expansion, \$1M toward food banks, \$50M toward the Workforce Development Council, and \$25M to expand the Idaho State Health Insurance Reserve.

Rep. Holtzclaw stated the committee's approval of the Governor's recommendations for the use of ARPA funds was not unanimous; nevertheless, the majority supported the recommendations. He noted the process of allowing the committee to hear budget proposals was not to create legislation, but to allow the members of the House Commerce and Human Resources Committee to understand the process and how ARPA funds may be spent.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Representative Youngblood
Chair

Alyson Jackson
Secretary