

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW20

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Vander Woude, Vice Chairman Erickson, Representatives Blanksma, Kingsley, Mitchell, Dixon(24), Gallagher, Healey, Redman, Wheeler, Chew, Rubel, Roberts

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Vander Woude** called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Roberts** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 7, and 9, 2023, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 30310:** **Rep. Wheeler**, District 35, presented **RS 30310** to create a limited bridge year physicians license for medical school graduates not matched with a residency program. These physicians can fill gaps in the healthcare provider workforce.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to Introduce **RS 30310**. **Motion carried voice vote.**

**RS 30190:** **Sen. Nichols**, District 10, presented **RS 30190** to amend code with a new section preventing the providing or administering of a vaccine using messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) technology for any human or animal in Idaho. This vaccine was fast tracked with no data access or informed consent. She stated the doctor who invented it says it is neither safe nor effective. There are other options available.

Answering committee questions, **Sen. Nichols** explained conflicting reports on its approval process raise concern. Moderna and Pfizer are the best known mRNA vaccines.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Healey** made a motion to introduce **RS 30190**.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE:** **Rep. Gallagher** requested a roll call vote. **Motion carried by a vote of 11 AYE and 2 NAY. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Erickson, Blanksma, Kingsley, Mitchell, Dixon (24), Gallagher, Healey, Redman, Wheeler, Rubel, Vander Woude. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Chew, Roberts.**

**H 31:** **Rep. Dori Healey**, District 15, presented **H 31**, to provide medication certification within a skilled nursing facility, under the supervision of a registered nurse. The certification requirement is updated to include curriculums approved by the national council of state boards of nursing. Certification exams have been improved to encompass nationally or regionally recognized testing organizations offering exams for medication aides.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to send **H 31** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by a voice vote.** **Rep. Healey** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 81:**

**Rep. Healey**, District 15, presented **H 81**. To remove the Maternity Mortality Review Committee's (MMRC) sunset date. Established in 2019, the importance of the MMRC reviews have highlighted the need for improved knowledge, treatment, and follow up.

Responding to questions, **Rep. Healey** stated the federal \$10k grant has no end date. The data is housed within the Department of Health and Welfare.

**Dr. Suzanne Hubele**, Family Physician, Idaho Academy of Family Physicians, testified **in support of H 81**. The MMRC reviews have proven valuable to the recommendation process.

**Ayla Birch**, Policy Intern, Idaho Voices for Children, testified **in support of H 81**. The MMRC reports show preventable maternal deaths rise during the period of 43 to 365 days after birth. As the only group identifying risk factors, they will help prevent future deaths and improve overall health care costs and services.

**Fred Birnbaum**, Idaho Freedom Foundation, testified **in opposition to H 81**. The committee is not necessary. The reported deaths indicate eight of the eleven women who died in 2020 were already Medicaid participants and six were pregnant at the time of death. The reported recommendations from the committee have nothing to do with maternity.

**Dr. Martha Lund**, American Association of University Women, testified **in support of H 81**. The rising U.S. pregnancy related death rates are higher than any other country. Nationwide MMRCs have been effective in reducing rates through educational initiatives and establishing safer protocols.

**Elke Shaw-Tulloch**, Administrator, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Welfare, testified **in support of H 81**. MMRC is a voluntary multi-disciplinary group which helps to identify factors for collaborative action. Information is confidential, even from its members.

**Stacy Thomas Seyb**, Physician, High-risk Obstetrics, Chairman, MMRC, testified **in support of H 81**. Since the committee members are volunteers, operating costs are for obtaining and assembling the confidential information.

**MOTION:**

**Vice Chairman Erickson** made a motion to **HOLD H 81** in committee for one day. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

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Representative Vander Woude  
Chair

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Irene Moore  
Secretary