

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Vander Woude, Vice Chairman Erickson, Representatives Blanksma, Kingsley (Crawford), 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.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Dixon (24)** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 23, and 24, 2023, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Erickson welcomed **Rep. Crawford**, who is substituting for **Rep. Kingsley** this week.

RS 30499: **Rep. Julianne Young**, District 30, presented **RS 30499** which replaces **H 64** for in-person visitation in residential care settings. Additional language stipulates facilities may not use more stringent precautions for visitors than what is required for staff.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to introduce **RS 30499**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 61: **Rep. Julianne Young**, District 30, presented **H 61** to address a critical lack of mental and behavioral health care in Idaho. She shared a personal experience when seeking mental health care for a family member. With in-state counselor shortages, families are forced to go to other states, which can lead to less frequent help. Waived during the pandemic, the use of telehealth has addressed this shortage and allowed the use of counselors from other states.

Stipulation is made regarding providers being subject to Idaho rules and regulations, including prescription management program participation. Practice privileges can be revoked for non-compliance and the provider can be reported to their state board.

Vice Chairman Erickson turned the gavel over to **Chairman Vander Woude**.

Answering committee questions, **Rep. Young** emphasized this is not a carte blanche opportunity. This opens the door for specialized counselors who otherwise might not be available to Idaho citizens. Next session she would be able to bring legislation addressing any terminology changes. Participants must be licensed in a state with similar requirements and they must be in good standing. Most individuals would prefer in-person providers, if they were available.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to send **H 61** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Kate Haas, Kestral West, representing Cisero Action, testified **in support** of **H 61**. As a mental health combating tool, **H 61** helps Idahoans meet their needs without diluting in-state providers. It addresses the mobility of our population and helps individuals moving into Idaho maintain their original provider relationships.

Lupe Wissel, AARP, testified in support of **H 61**. Telehealth makes a positive impact on the lives of older Idahoans and their families. This legislation expands the services available and changes the way we view healthcare, putting the control in the hands of the individual. Not only rural areas can benefit, but also caregivers who cannot take time away from their loved ones to care for themselves.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Vander Woude called for a vote on the motion to send **H 61** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Young** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 82:

Rep. Jacyn Gallagher, District 9, presented **H 82**. This legislation amends Title 37 with a new chapter called the Idaho Supplementary Act and cements current regulations which were enacted in 2022. She shared information on a variety of studies and the impact of supplements on the health of individuals.

MOTION:

Rep. Dixon (24) made a motion to send **H 82** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Responding to questions, **Rep. Gallagher** said safety measures already exist for new supplements and vitamins. A federal ban on a vitamin or supplement made in Idaho would not cease its sale within our state.

Greg Ferch, Chiropractor, testified in support of **H 82**. Some supplements appeared to be very effective during the Pandemic. This legislation helps Idahoans continue access to healthcare products during times when there might be a federal plan to limit access to those products.

A committee member expressed concern with a potential conflict with the federal Supremacy Clause and the cost of a lawsuit.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Rep. Chew made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 82** in committee for time certain, March 2, 2023. **Motion failed by voice vote.**

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:

Chairman Vander Woude called for a vote on the motion to send **H 82** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Rubel** requested she be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Gallagher** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary