

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 06, 2023

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chairman Zuiderveld, Senators Lee, Bjerke, Wintrow, and Taylor

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Chairman VanOrden and Senator Harris

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: **Vice Chairman Zuiderveld** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Debra Hetherington to the State Board of Health and Welfare** for a term commencing February 14, 2023 and expiring February 13, 2027. **Ms. Hetherington** gave a brief overview of her background. **Senator Lee** asked if she saw any immediate challenges. **Ms. Hetherington** replied she spent 25 years trying to find the most affordable insurance plans for her clients, whether they were Medicaid, Medicare or in the private sector. She believed it was the same challenge now as it was then.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Tom Stoesser to the State Board of Health and Welfare** for a term commencing February 12, 2023 and expiring February 12, 2017. **Mr. Stoesser** gave an overview of his background as a recovery accountant. **Senator Lee** asked why he was interested in serving on the Board of Health and Welfare. **Mr. Stoesser** replied he received a call from the Governor's Office requesting his assistance. He believed proper measurement was the key to management, as he had contributed to other boards through his skills in governance, finance, and management.

Senator Wintrow asked why his skillset and data was a good match for this position. **Mr. Stoesser** replied he had been on a number of boards where there were issues with sales, marketing, and accounting, where they were not measuring it properly.

Vice Chairman Zuiderveld inquired as to what would the biggest challenge for him would be not having a medical background. **Mr. Stoesser** answered looking for efficiencies and accountability through was where he hoped he could help.

H 31 **NURSES - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding certified medication assistants.** **Representative Healey** explained this allowed other institutions under the board of nursing to provide medication assistance education and training to certified nursing assistants. Those students must take a proctored exam that was nationally or regionally certified.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Taylor** asked if positive outcome were anticipated for the limited supply of caregivers when dealing with their patient loads. **Representative Healey** stated it would help offset some of the burden that were currently experienced.

TESTIMONY: **Robert Vande Merwe**, executive director, Idaho Health Care Association, registered to testify in support of **H 31**. He explained that many other states allowed a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) to get an extra 120 hours to distribute the most routine, simple medications.

MOTION: **Senator Lee** declared a 39 H. **Senator Lee** moved to send **H 31** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried with a **voice vote**.

H 153 **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING - Adds to existing law to provide for limited licenses for medical school graduates who are not accepted into a residency program. Representative Wheeler** stated it was intended to provide opportunities to attract and support more medical providers into the State of Idaho. He believed the benefits of this legislation were that individuals would stay connected to the health care industry, continue to build their skills, and be a stronger candidate to match to residency in the future.

MOTION: **Senator Wintrow** moved to send **H 153** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Bjerke** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Vice Chairman Zuiderveld** adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Michelle Tierney
Secretary