

MINUTES  
**HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 07, 2023

**TIME:** 2:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW05

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Holtzclaw, Vice Chairman Bundy, Representatives Kingsley, Wisniewski, Horman, Weber, McCann, Cheatum, Hawkins, Healey, Miller, Price, Wheeler, Chew, Roberts

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representatives Horman, Weber, Chew

**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 Holtzclaw** called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Roberts** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 203:** **Rep. Furniss** presented **H 203**, legislation to amend the dedicated fund to permit public schools to buy in to the state's medical and dental group insurance plan. He noted the Appropriations Committee allocated \$75 million to the plan, and 12 school districts had joined the plan. Rep. Furniss noted the group insurance plan had lowered deductibles.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Cheatum** made a motion to send **H 203** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Fred Birnbaum**, Idaho Freedom Foundation, testified **in opposition** to **H 203**. Mr. Birnbaum expressed concern at increasing cost of the legislation. He noted the State was taking on the costs of insuring teachers, noting the agency request was for \$360 million. Mr. Birnbaum stated the cost of the plan is shifted from the school district to the state.

**Rep. Furniss** noted the state employee insurance plan has low fees and better discounts, advising more people being on the plan helped to reduce costs. He stated school districts costs were lower on the state plan because of the internal costs of non-state health care plans.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE:** Roll call vote requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 7 AYE, 5 NAY and 3 Absent/Excused.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Bundy, McCann, Cheatum, Healey, Miller, Wheeler, Roberts.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Holtzclaw, Kingsley, Wisniewski, Hawkins, Price.** **Reps. Horman, Weber, Chew were absent/excused.** **Rep. Furniss** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

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Representative Holtzclaw  
Chair

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Jeremy Collier  
Secretary