

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 08, 2023

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Wintrow

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: **Chairman VanOrden** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 2:08 p.m. The Chairman announced a change in the agenda order.

H 162 **HEALTH - Amends, repeals, and adds to existing law to revise terminology and other provisions regarding virtual health care. Senator Lee** explained this expanded access to virtual technologies while still ensuring patient safety and the Idaho community's standard of care. It updated the Pharmacy Practice Act to allow virtual care technologies to establish a patient provider relationship, and required anyone providing those services to adhere to Idaho's rules, regulations, and laws.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT: **Claudia Tucker**, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, Teledoc Health testified in support of **H 162**, as they were the world's largest telehealth provider. She stated this ensured that an Idaho licensed provider could use their clinical expertise and professional standards to make sure the care they gave to an Idaho resident met the Idaho standard of care. It also aligned with the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSB), an organization that every state medical board belonged to, including Idaho.

Francoise Cleveland, AARP Idaho, registered to testify in support of **H 162**. She stated older adults and individuals with disabilities would greatly benefit from telehealth services, especially those with physical limitations and within rural communities who experienced additional barriers when they sought in-person care.

DISCUSSION: **Vice Chairman Zuiderveld** asked for clarification on what a 'static online questionnaire' was. **Senator Lee** replied it was a broad questionnaire that collected very basic information, was similar with all patients, and allowed the patient to acquire a prescription for controlled substance medications with ease.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **H 162** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities. **Christine Pisani**, Executive Director, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities, explained the Council was authorized by federal and state law to monitor service systems and policies, and advocate for improved services that enabled Idahoans with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live meaningful lives in their home communities. The Council contracted with the Criminal Justice Program at Boise State University to complete three separate studies. The findings and recommendations of the first study released last spring, in 2022 were contained in today's presentation. Dr. Layne Gillespie and Dr. Jessica Wells conducted the study focused on stakeholder interviews to understand the current challenges and successes in handling abuse, neglect and exploitation reports from people with disabilities (see Attachment 1).

Jennifer Zielinski, Executive Director, Idaho Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition stated their non-profit organization provided services directly to victims and survivors of human trafficking throughout the state. The Coalition focused on education, training, awareness, advocacy, and systemic change (see Attachment 2).

DISCUSSION: **Vice Chairman Zuiderveld** asked if someone was missing, was it not reported or could they not identify it. **Ms. Zielinski** replied it was referred to as a push-pull effect. There was not any county, judicial or jurisdictional policies that defined a missing person, so the Coalition advocated for evaluating why that child was missing and questioned was somebody pulling that child to them or were they running away from abuse or exploitation within the home. In their advocacy efforts, any child who goes missing should be declared as missing.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Michelle Tierney
Secretary