

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 15, 2024

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 (Wilson), Rubel, Roberts

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Mitchell, Wheeler

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 9:00 a.m.

RS 31159: **Rep. Megan Blanksma**, District 8, presented **RS 31159** to establish provisions to insure adoption and foster care placements are free from religious discrimination and provide foster children with more loving homes.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to introduce **RS 31159**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31080C2: **Tim Olson**, representing the Idaho Self-Storage Association, presented **RS 31080C2**, proposed legislation to improve communication between lessees, financial institutions and storage owners.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to introduce **RS 31080C2**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31291: **Rep. Chris Mathias**, District 19, presented **RS 31291**, designating October 9, 2024, as PANDA/PANS Awareness Day and addressing the lack of consistent insurance coverage for intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) treatments. For those in need, failure to receive IVIG causes immediate and lasting problems. This resolution asks the Department of Insurance to consult with health insurance leaders to find a route for insurance coverage.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to introduce **RS 31291**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31302: **Rep. James Petzke**, District 21, presented **RS 31302** to address an upcoming need for behavioral health (BH) hospitals who will soon lose their supplemental payments.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to introduce **RS 31302**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31371: **Rep. Dori Healey**, District 15, presented **RS 31371** to replace previous legislation with a change to allow the public school to furnish an unbiased list of stipulated professionals.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to introduce **RS 31371**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 439: **Rep. Dori Healey**, District 15, presented **H 439**. The Idaho Immunization Assessment Board purchases and stores childhood vaccines in bulk at a discounted price for all of Idaho. This legislation extends the Board's sunset date to July 1, 2029.

MOTION: **Rep. Dixon(24)** made a motion to send **H 439** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Gallagher** requested she be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Healey** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 437: **Nicki Chopski**, Health Professions Bureau Chief, Division of Occupational and Professional License (DOPL), Executive Officer, Boards of Nursing, Medicine, and Pharmacy, presented **H 437**. With the Midwifery Practice Act sunset of July 1, 2024, DOPL wishes to consolidate the regulation of licensed midwives under the Board of Nursing (BON). Operating currently at a deficit, it is unlikely the Board of Midwifery will ever be financially solvent. The BON has sufficient resources to absorb the Board of Midwifery and effectively regulate the profession. The BON's composition has been altered to account for the consolidation.

MOTION: **Rep. Erickson** made a motion to send **H 437** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. Motion carried by voice vote. **Rep. Gallagher** requested she be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Healey** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 436: **Nicki Chopski**, Health Professions Bureau Chief, DOPL, Executive Officer, Boards of Nursing, Medicine, and Pharmacy, presented **H 436**. This legislation creates the Idaho Allied Health Advisory Board by combining the existing boards of dietetics, athletic training, respiratory therapy, and naturopathic medicine. The four boards will continue to be advisory to the Board of Medicine as a combined board. There will be one member from each license type on the new seven member board. Combining the boards will result in fewer board meetings, fewer board members, and lower expenses.

Responding to questions **Ms. Chopski** said two of the boards are financially in the red and two boards are in the black. Each board and license type can be tracked for revenue purposes. The Allied Health Advisory Board is expected to be financially in the black.

MOTION: **Rep. Erickson** made a motion to send **H 436** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Redman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 441: **Rep. Marco Erickson**, District 33, presented **H 441** for fentanyl test strips. These strips are easily available in stores or on line. Their use for testing product has resulted in a decrease in use and overdosing. This legislation removes them from the current Idaho Code classification of paraphernalia.

Rep. Ilana Rubel, District 18, further presented **H 441**, stating the data supports the effectiveness of making this legal change. Individuals receiving the strips were found to have reduced their behavior and not inadvertently been poisoned by fentanyl.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to send **H 441** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Caden Stone, Self, testified **in support** of **H 441**. The fentanyl crisis is growing rapidly in Idaho. Along with education regarding opioids, this legislation helps save lives.

Martha Smith, Student, testified **in support** of **H 441**. The testing strips allow informed decisions and save lives by giving people a chance to pause and consider what they are about to take.

Julianne Donnelly Tzul, ACLU of Idaho, testified **in support** of **H 441**. The science supports using test strips, not jail time. Knowledge of a deadly substance will save lives. This change is prudent and effective.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Vander Woude called for a vote on the motion to send **H 441** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by a voice vote.** **Reps. Erickson** and **Rubel** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chairman Vander Woude and the committee thanked **Emma Wittman**, for serving as the committee page for the first half of the session.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary