

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 21, 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) Blanksma, Mitchell

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. He welcomed **Rep. Egbert** who is substituting for **Rep. Chew**.

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

RS 31379: **Rep. John Vander Woude**, District 22, presented **RS 31379** to repeal the syringe and needle exchange program.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to introduce **RS 31379**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Roberts, Rubel, and Egbert** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**.

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

RS 31311: **Rep. Jordan Redman**, District 3, presented **RS 31311**. This proposed legislation removes public benefits for illegal immigrants. It does not target businesses. It does eliminate the use of taxpayer dollars for those individuals illegally in Idaho.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to introduce **RS 31311**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Roberts, Rubel and Egbert** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**.

RS 31149: **Rep. Julianne Young**, District 30, presented **RS 31149** to clarify and insure Medicaid recipients can access the necessary records in order to qualify for services.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to introduce **RS 31149**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 489: **Rep. Julianne Young**, District 30, presented **H 489**. This legislation includes immediate family members as essential caregivers for patients in hospitals or health care facilities. The patient can remove anyone from the essential caregiver approved list. The inclusion aligns with essential caregiving within the surrogate decision maker statute. For patients in law enforcement or prison custody, stipulation is made for the governing law enforcement statute to take precedence.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to send **H 489** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Grace Howat, Idaho Family Policy Center, testified **in support** of **H 489**. Many individuals were prohibited from seeing their loved ones while in hospitals during the pandemic. Denying such visits leads to a variety of issues for patients while in or being discharged from the hospitals. This respects the rights of patients and their families.

Due to technical difficulties **Mary Kay Alix** was unable to testify remotely. **Chairman Vander Woude** announced she signed up to testify **in support of H 489**.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Vander Woude called for a vote on the motion to send **H 489** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Young** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 490:

Katie Stuart, Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL), Bureau Chief, Administrative Bureau, presented **H 490**. This legislation for fingerprinting eliminates the required board form, removes the board review, and combines the requirements for each board into a new section of code. It also clarifies the responsibility of the Division of Administration without changing any requirements. There is no fiscal impact on dedicated, federal, or general funds.

MOTION:

Rep. Rubel made a motion to send **H 490** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Redman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 528:

Steven Millward, Program Manager, Certified Family Home (CFH) Program, Division of Licensing and Certification, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), presented **H 528**. The changes benefit residents by adding standards for developing their service plans. It also clarifies what they can expect for a safe, sanitary, and comfortable living environment. All of the changes enhance the rights of residents.

For providers, the resident limit has been increased from two residents. It also gives them the ability to charge room and board to residents, other family members, and staff, with a correction to the amount which can be charged. Additional stipulation has been made for provider sanctions from certificate revocation during non-emergency situations. The changes also allow the DHW to issue more than one provisional certificate in a twelve-month period. Other changes create different resident assessment criteria for various programs, allow application termination, and affirm the certifying agent's ability during a complaint investigation.

Joanne Basco, Self, CFH Caregiver, testified **in support of H 528**. The changes remove repetition and bring other items up to legal expectations. It is very easy to read and understand. The changes will not affect the providers and will clarify what is required of them.

Sue Maben, CFH Provider, Member, CFH Statewide Council, testified **in support of H 528**. This legislation was created with the input of CFH providers, who play a crucial role that is a labor of the heart. Clarification helps assure the providers have the appropriate equipment, resources, and follow HIPAA. It also allows residents to participate in their plans and living conditions.

Rachelle Tierney, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities, testified **in support of H 528**. She was happy the improved statute strengthens the rights of residents and keeps them free from exploitation.

MOTION:

Rep. Healey made a motion to send **H 528** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Erickson** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary