

Senate Education Committee
Monday, March 18, 2024 - 2:00 P.M.
TESTIMONY ON: All Subjects

Written Testimony

Name (First & Last)	Subject	Manner Testifying	Representing Company/Organization	City	For / Against	Wish to Testify	District #
Jessica Bearman	H 684	W	Self	Viola	For	N	6

I am writing to support H684. Idaho is in desperate need of mental health professionals, and those in need of services have long waits for appointments, sometimes even when their need for services is quite acute. Children must be taken out of school to go to appointments.

This bill would make mental health services available to students and their families on a regular basis and would avoid the problem of students having to miss school to go to appointments. It is a technological solution to a long-standing issue facing rural states (and increasingly all communities).

thank you!
 Jessica Bearman

Kathy Dawes	H 684	W	Myself and my husband, Dana	Moscow	For	N	6
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We support bill H 684 because our state is dire need of more mental health professionals who can provide services for adults and children. Offering services through telehealth will greatly expand the reach of those few professionals. Providing telehealth behavioral health services in our schools will increase the opportunity to address these needs in order to prevent problem behaviors from getting worse. Our daughter is a telehealth mental health professional in another state and we have heard first-hand how beneficial this service is.

It is admirable that this bill has been proposed and we encourage you to vote YES on H 684. Thank you.

Gretchen Wissner	H 684	W	self	Moscow	For	N	6
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Please vote YES on HB 684. This bill allowing telehealth mental health services to students and families on school campuses is much needed. School counselors are already stretched thin in their responsibilities, and they work with students but do not provide the family

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Gretchen Wissner

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counseling which is needed to support children with significant behavioral health issues. Convenient, regularly scheduled telehealth appointments with children and families have the potential to bring about positive mental/behavioral change for students in need.