

MINUTES  
**SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair VanOrden, Vice Chairman Bjerke, Senators Harris, Zuiderveld, Lenney, Shippy, Blaylock, Keyser, and Wintrow

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None

**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:** **Chair VanOrden** convened the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) at 3:00 p.m.

**DISCUSSION:** **Chair VanOrden** invited the Committee to work with her to prepare a Health and Welfare budget presentation for the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE:** **Committee Vote on the Gubernatorial Reappointment of B.J. Stinger to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.** **Senator Wintrow** moved to send the Gubernatorial reappointment of **B.J. Stinger** to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Shippy** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE:** **Committee Vote on the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Trevor Sparrow, Ombudsman, Office of Health and Social Services.** **Senator Blaylock** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of **Trevor Sparrow** to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Zuiderveld** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE:** **Committee Vote on the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Elizabeth Elroy to the Board of Environmental Quality.** **Senator Wintrow** moved to send the Gubernatorial reappointment of **Elizabeth Elroy** to the floor with the recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Bjerke** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 31946** **Relating to Congregate Care.** **Senator Wintrow** introduced that this legislation amended statute from the 2024 Legislative Session relating to foster children residing in Airbnbs. In an attempt to address need, the previous legislation incidentally created burdensome regulations for a child residential treatment program in Eastern Idaho. Idaho Voices for Children collaborated to create new legislation for short term cases that safeguarded foster children while easing administrative burdens.

**MOTION:** **Senator Bjerke** moved to send **RS 31946** to print. **Senator Keyser** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 31966** **Relating to Human Gene Therapy Product.** **Senator Shippy** explained this RS placed a moratorium on gene therapy products due to potential health risks. This legislation was inspired by Doug Cameron, an Idaho resident whose genetic immunization left him paralyzed. **Senator Shippy** furthered that the legislation provided the necessary time to evaluate this emerging technology to safeguard Idahoans.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Wintrow** asked Senator Shippy to address the specifics of a moratorium, what infections can and cannot be treated, and if under this legislation a patient could still consent to gene therapy products. **Senator Shippy** responded he would be happy to provide those details in the bill hearing. He directed the Committee's attention to the exception outlined on page two.

**MOTION:** **Senator Lenney** moved to send **RS 31966** to print. **Senator Keyser** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 31987** **Relating to Foster Homes.** **Senator Shippy** presented this legislation eliminated Sections 230, 232, and 233 from Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA) relating to Foster Care Licensing and moved the necessary components into statute. The legislation lessened regulations on firearms in foster homes to decrease their vulnerability. The legislation would add an educational video on gun safety to foster parent orientation and licensing. This intended to aid in foster care recruitment by decreasing regulations.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Wintrow** asked how this would impact the accessibility of firearms for children. **Senator Shippy** stated the rules were reasonable and basic for a safe household. He continued that the Department of Health and Welfare placed trust in foster parents, and that education was more important than arbitrary rules.

**MOTION:** **Senator Blaylock** moved to send **RS 31987** to print. **Senator Keyser** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chair VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

---

Senator VanOrden  
Chair

---

Rebecca Kozlowski  
Secretary