

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 06, 2025

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair VanOrden, Vice Chairman Bjerke, Senators Harris, Zuiderveld, Coho (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** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:02 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Keyser** moved to approve the Minutes of January 30, 2025. **Senator Blaylock** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE: **Senator Wintrow** moved to send the Gubernatorial Reappointment of **Britt Raubenheimer** to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to the floor with the recommendation she be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Bjerke** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 24-2401-2401 RECONSIDERATION: **Chair VanOrden** presented **Docket No. 24-2401-2401** relating to Genetic Counselors which was first reviewed by the Committee January 23, 2025.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Shippy** voiced his disagreement with Subsection 002 of **Docket No. 24-2401-2401** which incorporated by reference a non-discrimination clause as part of the National Society of Genetic Counselors Code of Ethics.

MOTION: **Senator Bjerke** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-2401-2401**. **Senator Blaylock** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Bjerke moved to reject Section 11 Subsection 3 of the National Society of Genetic Counselors Code of Ethics incorporated by reference into the Final Rule of **Docket No. 24-2401-2401** Subsection 002. **Senator Keyser** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Wintrow** wished to be recorded as voting nay.

PASS THE GAVEL: Chair VanOrden passed the gavel to Vice Chair Bjerke.

RS 32271 **A Resolution Relating to State Findings of the Legislature.** **Senator VanOrden** introduced that this resolution addressed federal funding for adoption care. She discovered that recent changes to Idaho Law made the State ineligible for a certain federal grant. If grant languages changed, this resolution aimed to position Idaho to receive the federal grant to fund legal expenses and care for mothers choosing adoption. **Terri Marcroft**, Founder and Executive Director of Unplanned Good, discussed groups lobbying the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to draft language for adoption-friendly federal grants.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Zuiderveld** expressed concern about potential strings attached to accepting federal grants. **Ms. Marcroft** noted her confidence in the advocacy of the individuals working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Senator Wintrow asked for clarification on the particulars of the federal grant. **Senator VanOrden** explained that the grant contained various stipulations the new administration might amend to accommodate adoption-related funding. **Senator Bjerke** summarized that this resolution anticipated money reentering Idaho because of changing political winds. **Senator VanOrden** concurred.

Senator Blaylock confirmed that Idaho was not currently eligible for this specific grant and this resolution would allow funds to reenter Idaho when the funds became available. **Senator VanOrden** responded in the affirmative, that the resolution would bring funds back into Idaho.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 32271** to print. **Senator Shippy** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Wintrow** supported helping birth mothers in balance with providing preventative care. At the moment, **Senator Wintrow** was not clear on the particulars of the grant and because of that would vote no until she could receive more information from the Department of Health and Welfare.

VOTE: The motion to send **RS 32271** to print carried by **voice vote**. Senator Wintrow wished to be recorded as voting nay.

PASS THE GAVEL: Vice Chair Bjerke passed the gavel to Chair VanOrden.

H 29 **UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding controlled substances.** **Nicki Chopski**, Bureau Chief of Health Professions, Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL), discussed that this bill was in accordance with Idaho Code to annually update the Idaho Controlled Substances Act with the most current drug schedules.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Wintrow** invited Ms. Chopski to explain why this was required every year and the meanings of the various drug schedules. **Ms. Chopski** explained that Idaho was one of twelve states that did not incorporate by references the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) code. Instead, DOPL reviewed each drug before adding it to the Idaho Controlled Substances Act. **Ms. Chopski** continued that drugs on schedule one had no medical use and had the highest potential for abuse and dependence. The risks decreased through the subsequent five schedules, with schedule five being least likely for abuse.

Senator Bjerke asked if anabolic steroids were originally a schedule five drug. **Ms. Chopski** replied anabolic steroids had always been a schedule three drug and certain versions of the drug were added to the list in the event law enforcement become necessary.

MOTION: **Senator Wintrow** moved to send **H 29** to print with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Blaylock** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Your Health Idaho.** **Pat Kelly**, Executive Director, Your Health Idaho, presented a report of Your Health Idaho's 2024 services, partnerships, and funding (Attachment One). He outlined goals for 2025 including improving customer experience and increasing choice for Idahoan health.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Bjerke** asked how many states besides Idaho had a state-based instead of federal-based exchange. **Mr. Kelly** replied that twenty had adopted a state-based exchange and that Idaho led out in the transition.

Senator Wintrow inquired what would happen if the Medicaid expansion were repealed. **Mr. Kelly** responded that of the 85,000 Idahoans on Medicaid, only 19,100 had incomes between 100 and 138% of the poverty level. They were the only ones who would be eligible for the tax credit and to enroll in the exchange. **Senator Bjerke** asked what happened to the remaining 65,000 people not eligible. **Mr. Kelly** replied they would fall into the "coverage gap" which would be better addressed by the Department of Health and Welfare.

DOCKET NO. **Senator Blaylock** restated the corrected motion for **Docket No. 24-2401-2401**. **Senator Blaylock** moved to reject Section 2 Subsection 3 of the National Society of Genetic Counselors Code of Ethics incorporated by reference in Subsection 002 of the final **Docket No. 24-2401-2401**. **Senator Keyser** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Wintrow** wished to be recorded as voting nay.

RE-CONSIDERATION:

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chair VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Rebecca Kozlowski
Secretary