

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 17, 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** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:14 p.m.

WELCOME: **Emma Medrano** introduced herself as a resident of Eagle, Idaho. She had been interested in politics since childhood and looked forward to learning from the Committee.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Bjerke** moved to approve the Minutes of February 5, 2025. **Senator Zuiderveld** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 32371 **A Senate Resolution Regarding that all Temporary and Pending Rules have been Reviewed and Approved by the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, With Exception - Unanimous Consent Request for Referral to a Privileged Committee for Printing.** **Chair VanOrden** explained this bill stated the Committee reviewed and approved the 2025 Administrative Rules.

MOTION: **Senator Shippy** requested unanimous consent to send **RS 32371** to the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee for printing. There were no objections.

S 1087 **MEDICAL RECORDS - Adds to existing law to require the provision of copies of medical records in certain circumstances.** **Senator Ricks** stated this bill provided one free copy of medical records to those applying for Social Security Disability Insurance. Many hospitals contracted third parties to compile medical records, charging up to \$1.24 per page for thousand-page documents. This bill eliminated that fee for Social Security Disability Insurance applications.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Keyser** inquired if third party contractors had to comply with federal law requiring no-cost medical records. **Senator Ricks** stated that inhouse hospitals must provide records at a "reasonable" cost which could still amount to hundreds of dollars. **Senator Zuiderveld** asked Senator Ricks if he would be willing to amend line 22 to say that patients could "support a documented qualified claim." **Senator Ricks** replied he would be willing to send to the 14th Order to add the word "documented."

TESTIMONY: **Kate Haas**, Association of Health Information Outsourcing Services, supported **S 1087**, particularly the inclusion of the word "documented," as it provided contractors clarity on which documents would be provided free of charge and protected them from potential abuse.

MOTION: **Senator Shippy** moved to send **S 1087** to the 14th Order for amendment. **Senator Zuiderveld** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

IMMUNIZATIONS - Adds to existing law to establish a moratorium on certain uses of human gene therapy products- INFORMATIONAL HEARING. Senator **Shippy** declared this bill placed a moratorium on the production of gene therapy products. A concerned constituent brought the issue of vaccination health complications to Senator Shippy's attention and aided him in drafting the legislation. **Senator Shippy** turned the time over to his guest speakers.

Dr. Christina Parks, molecular biologist, stated experimental gene therapy should hold for a 10 to 20 year safety study to assess signals for cancer and autoimmunity. She asserted that gene therapy did not work like conventional vaccinations and posed a high safety risk. **Dr. Peter McCullough**, cardiologist, internist, and epidemiologist, testified gene therapy products should be stopped from clinical use due to health concerns. He noted that Moderna halted vaccinations for the Norovirus due to similar reasons and urged lawmakers to do the same. **Nicolas Hulcher**, epidemiologist, claimed that the total number of COVID-19 deaths due to vaccination complications exceeded regulatory standards and should be removed from the market due to DNA contamination. **Dr. Renata Moon**, pediatrician, raised concern about COVID-19 vaccinations for children, who faced minimal risk from the virus, but she claimed experienced significant harm from the vaccine. She shared examples defending her claim, and urged legislators to take action to protect children from risks. **Sasha Latypova**, pharmacologist, criticized what she perceived as the Food and Drug Administration's failure to enforce regulations on vaccines during the pandemic. She claimed that the COVID-19 vaccine had no informed consent since neither health care providers nor recipients had assurance about the purity, potency, safety, nor the content of the vaccines.

TESTIMONY: **Xavier Figueroa, Shanie McLaren, Heidi Smith, Joseph Gish, Laura Demaray, Lori Petersen, Liz Willner, Sean Alix, Gordon Wilkerson, Thomas Yengst, Ryan Cole, John Tribble, and Doug and Carla Cameron** supported **S 1036** for the following reasons: they believed the COVID vaccine had not received sufficient testing, scientific studies demonstrated gene therapy product's harm, and believed adverse health complications from the vaccine, such as cardiac arrest, stroke, and paralysis, created a serious financial burden.

David Peterman, Jessica Evans-Wall, Sky Blue, Paul Rolig, Kyle Smith, Bailey Stark, Haley Bridgewater, and David Pate opposed **S 1036** for the following reasons: they believed the COVID vaccine protected individuals and communities from sickness. They also believed that legislatures should not eliminate vaccination choices and that reports of vaccine-related health complication were unverified and unreliable. They claimed a moratorium on therapy gene products would halt biomedical research and shared that the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, which had harmed Doug Taylor, did not contain mRNA and had already been pulled from dissemination.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chair VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Rebecca Kozlowski
Secretary