

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 15, 2026

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman Bjerke, Senators Harris, Lenney, Shippy, Keyser, and Wintrow

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Zuiderveld and Blaylock

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: **Chairman VanOrden** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:02 p.m.

WELCOME: **Chairman VanOrden** welcomed the Senators to the Committee.

INTRODUCTION: **Chairman VanOrden** introduced the new Committee Secretary, Madysen Crea and asked her to tell the Committee about herself. **Ms. Crea** informed the Committee she had administrative experience working with the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (IDOPL). She stated she worked with several health professions boards while IDOPL completed Zero-Based Regulation Rulemaking. **Ms. Crea** told the Committee she was born and raised in Idaho and enjoyed hunting and hiking.

INTRODUCTION: **Chairman VanOrden** introduced the new Committee Page, Finn Mecham and asked him to tell the Committee about himself. **Mr. Mecham** stated he was a senior in high school and enjoyed snowboarding, tennis, and shooting skeet. He planned to attend Utah State University after high school. He informed the Committee that his father and older brother both went through the Page Program in the Idaho House of Representatives.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman VanOrden** asked what high school Mr. Mecham attended. **Mr. Mecham** stated he attended Eagle High School. **Senator Harris** remarked that he attended Utah State and it was a great school. **Senator Shippy** asked Mr. Mecham if he had one week to do anything what would he do. **Mr. Mecham** stated he would snowboard at Brundage.

INTRODUCTION: **Chairman VanOrden** introduced the new Committee Page, Cooper Smith and asked him to tell the Committee about himself. **Mr. Smith** told the Committee that he was from Nampa and enjoyed weight training, football, and traveling. He informed the Committee that he recently moved to Idaho from Europe. He tried to travel as much as he could while living in Europe.

DISCUSSION: **Vice Chairman Bjerke** asked Mr. Smith where in Europe he lived. **Mr. Smith** told the Committee he lived in Spain on the southern side. **Senator Harris** asked if he learned any foreign languages. **Mr. Smith** stated he did not learn Spanish, but he was moving to France to attend university and hoped to learn French.

NOTE: **Vice Chairman Bjerke** informed the Committee they would begin reviewing rules next week. He stated the Secretary and Pages did a great job organizing the Administrative Rule Review Books.

Chairman VanOrden addressed the Department of Health and Welfare Facts, Figures, & Trends 2025-2026 Reference books on the Committee members' desks.

Chairman VanOrden acknowledged that some of the Administrative Rules to be reviewed by the Committee may be difficult. She stated the Committee members should contact her or Vice Chairman Bjerke if they wanted to delay a vote to obtain more information on a specific docket. **Chairman VanOrden** asked the committee members to speak with her if they had any legislation they wanted to introduce.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Madyson Crea
Secretary