

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 11, 2026

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Vander Woude, Vice Chairman Erickson, Representatives Healey, Redman, Wheeler, Beiswenger, Burgoyne, Cayler, Fuhriman, Leavitt, McCann, Thompson, Hall (Stone), Tanner(13), Rubel, Egbert

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Vice Chairman Erickson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

H 528: **Rep. Chris Bruce**, District 23, presented **H 528** to allow self or directed blood donations following federal guidelines for collection and processing. This provides freedom of choice and addresses situations when this choice has been denied.

MOTION: **Rep. Beiswinger** made a motion to send **H 528** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Vice Chairman Erickson turned the gavel over to **Chairman Vander Woude**.

Answering questions, **Rep. Bruce** said the directed donations are tested in compliance with federal requirements. Gross negligence would be an intentional act to harm.

Testifying in support of **H 528** were **Laura Demaray**, Self; **Amanda Cox**, Self; **Dr. John Tribble**, Physician; **Liz James**, Pharmacist; **Shanie McLaren**, Self; **Clinton Ohlers**, Self; **Sarah Bacon**, Self; **Sierra Hamm**, Nurse; **Leslie Manookian**, Health Freedom Defence Fund; **Jessica Shinneman**, Self.

Their concerns included direct donation barriers and red tape, protection of patient choice, the blood industry's interest in profit over autonomy, the reasons for directed blood donations, and the current need to go out of state to make donations.

Testifying in opposition to **H 528** were **Michael Martinez**, Vitalant Blood Donation; **Nicole Sirak Irwin**, Director, Red Cross; **Dr. Bart Hill**, Board Member, American Red Cross of Greater Idaho; **Melinda Merrill**, Board Member, Red Cross.

They explained the direct donated blood often goes unused, creates extra cost due to the special processing required, the various situations when a directed transfusion can cause reactions, the physician order requirement, the types of preservatives placed in directed donations to assure product shelf life, the impact on family members who participate in directed donations, and the extra burden on blood banks during the current nationwide blood shortage.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Fuhriman** made a substitute motion to send **H 528** to General Orders.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Thompson** requested a roll call vote. **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 7 AYE and 9 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Erickson, Healey, Wheeler, Fuhriman, McCann, Rubel, Egbert. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Vander Woude, Redman, Beiswenger, Burgoyne, Cayler, Leavitt, Thompson, Stone, Tanner(13).**

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: Rep. Cayler requested a roll call vote. **Original motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE and 6 NAY.** Voting in favor of the motion: **Reps. Vander Woude, Redman, Beiswenger, Burgoyne, Cayler, Leavitt, McCann, Thompson, Stone, Tanner(13).** Voting in opposition to the motion: **Reps. Erickson, Healey, Wheeler, Fuhriman, Rubel, Egbert.** Rep. Bruce will sponsor the bill on the floor.
Chairman Vander Woude turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Erickson.**

DOCKET NO. 15-0230-2401: **Arianah Ruzovich**, Business Enterprise Specialist, Office of the Blind and Visually Impaired, presented **Docket No. 15-0230-2401**, with changes to streamline the Business Enterprise Program rules.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 15-0230-2401.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 550: **Rep. Jordan Redman**, District 3, presented **H 550** to update and modernize the existing midwifery statute and provide safe administration of specific medications. He said **H 550** is being replaced by **RS 33250** and requested **H 550** be held in committee.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to **HOLD H 550** in committee.
Testifying in support of **H 550** were **Kathy Watkins**, Nurse Midwife; **Rebecca Holmstead**, Midwife; **Charity Catlin**, Licensed Midwife; **Valerie Hall**, Licensed Midwife; **Jeremy Chou**, representing the Idaho Medical Association.
Their testimony included the problems faced with the limitations of rural areas and the unnecessary, costly transport of mothers who could remain comfortably at home with this broadened range of medication.
Megan Wollaston, Self, testified in opposition to **H 550**, sharing how the delay in transport led to the loss of her baby. Improved transport timelines and safety requirements are needed.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Vice Chairman Erickson** called for a vote on the motion to **HOLD H 550** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33250: **Rep. Redman**, District 3, presented **RS 33250** to replace **H 550**. The changes update rulemaking to define a formulary and protocol. Medications is changed to specify "maternal and neonatal care defined in the formulary and protocol."

MOTION: **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to introduce **RS 33250** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Redman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary