

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 12, 2026

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Hawkins, Vice Chairman Handy, Representatives Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Marmon, Pickett, Hostetler, Veile, Mathias (Carlson), Galaviz

**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.

**Chairman Hawkins** called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**RS 33117:** **Rep. Leavitt** presented **RS 33117**, proposed legislation regarding Public Charter School Admissions.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to introduce **RS 33117**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 599:** **Rep. Raymond** presented **H 599**, legislation regarding digital content. He said this changes fund distribution from a first come first serve, to needs based distribution. He said the State Department of Education has a committee assigned to oversee the application

**MOTION:** **Rep. Nelsen** made a motion to send **H 299** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to committee member questions, **Debbie Critchfield**, Superintendent of Public Education, State Department of Education, explained the eligibility process.

Committee members discussed specific criteria and the definition of "need."

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Pickett** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 299** in committee.

**AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Sauter** made an amended substitute motion to **HOLD H 299** for time certain, February 19, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Hawkins** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Handy**.

**H 516:** **Rep. Hawkins** presented **H 516**, legislation regarding parental rights and K-12 sexual instruction. This bill removes "developmentally appropriate" from previous legislation as it is no longer needed.

Committee members voiced concern over opt-in parental rights controversy, CTE courses regarding medical instruction and FFA, and not specifying "human sexuality" in the bill.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Hostetler** made a motion to send **H 516** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Doug Taylor**, Targhee Group and **Grace Howat**, Idaho Family Policy, testified in support of **H 516**.

**Misty DelliCarpini-Tolman**, Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates, testified in opposition to **H 516**.

Committee members inquired about teachers mandatory reporting and Idaho code.

**VOTE ON MOTION:**

**Chairman Handy** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 516** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Hawkins** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:44 am.

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Representative Hawkins  
Chair

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Amy Bengtzen  
Secretary