

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) McCann, Thompson

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 Vander Woude called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Egbert** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 12, and 16, 2026, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 578: **Chairman Vander Woude** announced **H 578** has been removed from the agenda by the sponsor.

RS 33422: **Rep. Josh Wheeler**, District 35, presented **RS 33422** to establish a Foster Youth Bill of Rights to assure children in foster care clearly understand and receive basic safety considerations and essential needs. This codifies what the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) already follows and guides the judiciary branch.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to introduce **RS 33422**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33310C1: **Rep. Marco Erickson**, District 33, presented **RS 33310C1** for youth in residential care facilities. This proposed legislation codifies existing DHW and contract providers procedures.

Rep. Burgoyne expressed her objection to a youth bill of rights because such rights are vested with the parents.

Rep. Erickson explained the DHW is their guardian. This legislation pertains to youth who are in facilities.

MOTION: **Rep. Fuhriman** made a motion to introduce **RS 33310C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Vander Woude thanked **Isabel Trinidad** for being the committee's page during the first half of the session.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary