

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 05, 2026

**TIME:** 8:30 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.

**Chairman Vander Woude** called meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**H 754:** **Rep. Ben Fuhriman**, District 30, presented **H 754** to add physical therapists to the list of providers who can enter into patient agreements.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to send **H 754** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Testifying **in support** of **H 754** were **Chrystal Browning**, All Access Therapy, and **Jonathan Gardunia**, Idaho Physical Therapist Association.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Vander Woude** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 754** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Vander Woude, Healey, Leavitt, and Tanner(13)** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Fuhriman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 724:** **Rep. Josh Wheeler**, District 35, presented **H 724**, to better articulate safety expectations when children enter the state's custody and foster care system, assuring their rights are respected during any proceedings. Parental rights are not altered.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to send **H 724** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Testifying **in support** of **H 724** were **Dr. Kylie Billingsley**, Child Psychologist, Foster Parent; **Monique Peyre**, Self; **Lindsay Wright**, Self; **Misty Cook**, Self; **Isabella Cook**, Self; **Jeremey Rudolph**, Idaho Foster Parents; **Rachelle Darnall**, on behalf of **July Ravenholt**.

Their testimony included the need for judges to have more case information to get the full picture, children's rights are not always given equal weight, unification into safe homes is good, and children cannot advocate for themselves.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Cayler** made a substitute motion to send **H 724** to General Orders.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 4 AYE and 12 NAY.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Burgoyne, Cayler, Leavitt, Thompson.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Vander Woude, Erickson, Healey, Redman, Wheeler, Beiswenger, Fuhriman, McCann, Stone, Tanner(13), Rubel, Egbert.**

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:**

**Chairman Vander Woude** called for a vote on the original motion to send **H 724** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Wheeler** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

**H 759:**

**Rep. John Vander Woude**, District 22, presented **H 759** to increase taxpayer transparency and support Medicaid appropriation reductions paid to residential habilitation providers. The reductions are in line with the Governor's recommendations. In 2022 the legislature appropriated funds to increase service payment rates. Because a court order halted implementation of the new services and budget tool, the funds are no longer valid. The Department of Health and Welfare is required to report on the usage of the funds.

Answering questions, **Rep. Vander Woude** said the requested independent auditor will evaluate all community-based services. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021's initial funding was replaced by General Funds. This legislation was instigated by the recommendations which came out in September, 2025.

Testifying in opposition to **H 759** were **Hannah Liedke**, Self; **Tom Hemker**, Self; **Mckayla Matlack**, Chief Executive Officer, Developmental Workshop, Inc.; **Nick Wyatt**, Self; **Lani Gonzalez**, Self; **Holden Gonzalez**, Self; **Elva Gannon**, Self.

They stated providers were not included in the legislation's development, this may disrupt the quality of care to the disabled community, the Department of Health and Welfare needs direction to do the surveys and audits, and requested a third party provide an unbiased audit summary.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. McCann** made a motion to **HOLD H 759** to time certain, March 11, 2026.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

**Rep. Redman** made a substitute motion to send **H 759** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

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

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:**

**Vice Chairman Erickson** called for a vote on the motion to **HOLD H 759** to time certain, March 11, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote. Chairman Vander Woude** requested he be recorded as voting **NAY**.

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

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

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Representative Vander Woude  
Chair

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Irene Moore  
Secretary