

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 09, 2026

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Vander Woude, Vice Chairman Erickson (Larsen), 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 the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed **Rep. Larsen**, who is substituting for **Vice Chairman Erickson**.

H 495: **Rep. Jeff Ehlers**, District 21, presented **H 495** for the consolidation of the Board of Denturity under the Board of Dentistry. An additional board member is added and the scope of practice is defined. This addresses the Board of Denturity's \$10k negative cash balance.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to send **H 495** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Elizabeth Criner, on behalf of the Idaho State Dental Association, testified in **support** of **H 495**, which preserves the practice and maintains a reasonable licensure cost for the dental industry. The board's oversight is to insure patient safety and proper care. The new member would be a denturist. If no denturist is available, a dentist who works in the field would fill the board seat.

Testifying in **opposition** to **H 495** were **Angelo Giovanini**, Vice President, Idaho Denturists Association; **Geno Giovanini**, Denturist; **Dana Triplitt**, Intern Denturist; **Amanda Rowe Bronson**, President, Idaho Denturist Association; **Robert van Giffen**, Denturist; **Reva Garnett**, Denturity Student; **William Harris**, Denturist.

Their testimony highlighted the difference between denturists and dentists, the desire to raise fees to improve their deficit, the fee increase refusal by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL), no specification a denturist would be the new board member, exam frustrations when dealing with DOPL, merging with a competing board, and submitted alternative solutions which were not pursued.

Ryan Bernard, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Chief, DOPL, was invited to answer questions. He said the current five-member denturity board struggles to find three denturist members. There is no scope-of-practice change. Other competing boards have merged with no conflict of interest. The large fee increase requires legislative approval, which has been denied with other requests.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Wheeler** made a substitute motion to send **H 495** to General Orders.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Rep. Healey** made a unanimous consent request to withdraw her motion. There being no objection, the request was granted.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Vander Woude** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 495** to General Orders. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Ehlers** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 33468: **Rep. Jordan Redman**, District 3, presented **RS 33468** for the repeal of Medicaid Expansion effective January 1, 2028, as recommended by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Committee. This helps to maintain Medicaid's focus on Idaho's most vulnerable citizens.

MOTION: **Rep. Cayler** made a motion to Introduce **RS 33468**.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to return **RS 33468** to the sponsor.

Comments from the committee included the need to reduce the 138% Federal Poverty Limit (FPL) for the insurance exchange, **H 345** results are pending, the continuing growth of the expansion population, the impact on vulnerable Idahoans, the need to establish program priorities and accountability.

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 support** of the motion: **Reps. Healey, Wheeler, Fuhriman, McCann, Stone, Rubel, Egbert. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Vander Woude, Larsen, Redman, Beiswenger, Burgoyne, Cayler, Leavitt, Thompson, Tanner(13).**

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: Roll call vote was requested. **Original motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE and 6 NAY. Voting in support** of the motion: **Reps. Vander Woude, Larsen, Redman, Beiswenger, Burgoyne, Cayler, Leavitt, Thompson, Stone, Tanner(13). Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Healey, Wheeler, Fuhriman, McCann, Rubel, Egbert.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary