

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 12, 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.

**S 1292:** **Sen. Brandon Shippy**, District 9, presented **S 1292** for foster care provider training. This legislation requires a minimum of ten hours of online basic training to assure foster parents are empowered with basic standards and expectations.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Healey** made a motion to send **S 1292** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Kevin Watson**, Self, testified **in support** of **S 1292**. Previously optional, this change re-enforces the importance of the training to help parents face the complexities of caring for the foster children. Exemptions are included for those who already know the children.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Vander Woude** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1292** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Mitchell** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 862:** **Rep. Jordan Redman**, District 3, presented **H 862** to establish the Idaho Rural Transformation Fund and Committee. Idaho has received funds from the Rural Transformation Program, which is part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act's (OBBBA). This fund and committee allows appropriation and legislative oversight for better stewardship of the funds. Both the House and Senate leadership has said there will be a minority member on the four-person board.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Healey** made a motion to send **H 862** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Answering questions, **Rep. Redman** said this committee is crucial for legislative input on the sustainability of the grants, many of which will be one-time funds for program start-ups. If the federal funding criteria is not met the money will have to be returned. Without this oversight committee the Executive Branch and the Department of Health and Welfare will move forward to disperse the money without legislative oversight.

**Trevor Carlsen**, on behalf of FJA Action, testified **in support** of **H 862**. Idaho's legislators need to be a part of the implementation decisions for rural health access. Refusing funds will not impact the deficit because the money would go to other states.

**VOTE ON MOTION:**

**Chairman Vander Woude** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 862** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Thompson, Cayler, and Leavitt** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Redman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 808:**

**Rep. Rob Beiswenger**, District 8, presented **H 808**, to expand the Medical Freedom Act to declare compulsory medical treatments as contrary to Idaho's values, codifying the prohibition of local presumption laws. There is no impact on emergency treatment. The current immunization registry opt-out requirement would be changed to opt-in.

**Leslie Manookian**, President, Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund, further presented **H 808** which assures the Medical Freedom Act is applied to adults and children throughout Idaho.

Testifying **in support** of **H 808** were **Doug Cameron**, Self; **Katie Thompson**, Self; **Sarah Clandenon**, on behalf of the Health Freedom of Idaho.

They said everyone should have freedom from coercion. If a vaccine is effective, it will provide protection from someone who is not vaccinated. This legislation stops the counties from creating medical mandates and ordinances forcing requirements on businesses.

Testifying **in opposition** to **H 808** were **Christopher Flynn**, Self; **Tasha Hussman**, Registered Nurse; **Michael Kane**, on behalf of ICRMP; **Dr. David Peterman**, pediatrician; **Sue Miley**, Self; **Sidney Buffington**, Self; **Katie Rice**, Self.

They said medically fragile children need to have existing safeguards to attend school. School nurses require the registry information to reduce the spread of illnesses. The medical intervention definition would prohibit all medical entities, including county hospitals and emergency responders, from giving any recommendations. This is in direct conflict with their "do no harm" mandate and sets them up for prosecution. The registry information is very important for schools with transient populations.

Due to time constraints **H 808** will be carried over to the meeting of March 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

---

Representative Vander Woude  
Chair

---

Irene Moore  
Secretary