

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 05, 2018
- TIME:** 9:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW20
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Packer, Representatives Perry, Vander Woude, Redman, Blanksma, Hanks, Kingsley, Zollinger, Wagoner, Chew, Rubel
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
- GUESTS:** Robert Vande Merwe and Kris Ellis, IHCA; Alexandra Fernandez, Katie Davis, Alexandria Childers-Scott, Sheila Pugatch, George Gutierrez, and Beth Kriete, IDHW-Medicaid; Rick Holloway, FSUH-Boise; LaVona Andrew, Self; Toni Lawson, Id. Hospital Assoc; Steven Snow, CDHH; Trinette Middlebrook, DHW; FrankPowell, DHW-Rules Unit; Henry Shafer-Coffey, House Minority; Elizabeth Criner, ISDA
- Chairman Wood** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Packer** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2018, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 26011:** **Rep. Lynn Luker**, District 15, presented **RS 26011**, the Health Care Billing Equality Act, protects patients receiving health care services in an in-network hospital from being billed extra for out-of-network provider services. The insurance company pays for the service at 85% of the highest rate in the next located in-network facility or 145% of the Medicare rate. Elective services require a signed agreement prior to admission.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Redman** made a motion to introduce **RS 26011**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- H 411:** **Vice Chairman Packer**, District 28, presented **H 411**, for sign language interpreters. Exemptions clarify out-of-state and educational interpreters. The interpreter age is reduced from twenty-one to eighteen.
- For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Redman** made a motion to send **H 411** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.
- Rep. Hanks**, speaking to the motion, said she believes sign language is a first amendment right and will support this legislation because some of the regulations have been eased.
- VOTE ON MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Vice Chairman Packer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- RS 25985:** **Rep. Blanksma** presented **RS 25985** to strengthen the Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS) clause to require signatures, on behalf of the patient, by the parent or guardian and the physician.
- For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Perry** made a motion to introduce **RS 25985**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 25992: **Rep. John McCrostie**, District 16, presented **RS 25992**, a Concurrent Resolution to recognize February 26 to March 4, 2018, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week in conjunction with the National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. Affecting an estimated 58,000 Idahoans, this promotes sharing stories, experiences, early intervention information, and public health issue discussions.

MOTION: **Rep. Rubel** made a motion to introduce **RS 25992**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 336: **Alexandra Fernandez**, Acting Bureau Chief, Bureau of Long Term Care, Division of Medicaid, Department of Health and Welfare, presented **H 336**, for skilled nursing facility quality incentives for the Upper Payment Limit (UPL) assessment distribution program and inclusion of veterans facilities. Implementation would be in 2021.

Rick Holloway, Administrator, Idaho State Veterans Homes, testified **in support of H 336**. Participation in the UPL will provide revenue for improvements and offset any shortfall from current federal programs. The three veterans homes already maintain higher quality levels than state nursing facilities.

In response to questions, **Mr. Holloway** stated the additional funds would impact opening the northern Idaho veterans facility. Based on 2017 data, the Boise facility would pay \$350,000 and receive approximately \$1.4M.

Robert Vande Merwe, Idaho Healthcare Association, testified **in support of H 336**. The effective date gives the facilities time to assure their quality is up to speed and allows for a six-month data collection lag.

Matt Wimmer, Administrator, Division of Medicaid, DHW, was invited to answer a question. The new federal government managed care regulations continue funding through a quality program. Any penalty is out of the allocation, which is paid into the quality pool and has a 70% federal match rate.

For the record, no one else indicated their desire to testify.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Packer** made a motion to send **H 336** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Zollinger** and **Hanks** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Chairman Wood** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 409: **Kris Ellis**, Idaho Health Care Association, presented **H 409** to reduce the time to become a nursing home administrator from one year to six months. Allowance is made for a single health services executive license for administrators in assisted living, nursing, or home health, if approved by the appropriate boards.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **H 409** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify.

Mr. Vande Merwe, asked to comment on the changes, said the lower pay received during this training period presents a hardship lessened by the decrease to six months.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wagoner** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary