

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 20, 2019

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Wagoner, Representatives Vander Woude, Gibbs, Blanksma, Kingsley, Zollinger, Christensen, Green(2), Lickley, Chew, Rubel, Davis

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Vice Chairman Wagoner, None

GUESTS: Miste Garner Karlfeldt, Jinny Peterson, and Sarah Brady, HFI; Karen Echeverria
Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

H 133: **Rep. Priscilla Giddings**, District 7, presented **H 133**, legislation to require daycares and schools include the exemption provision information when providing immunization information.

Answering a question, **Rep. Giddings** said charter schools are also included. This helps the public easily understand both the immunization and exemption policy.

Miste Garner Karlfeldt, Health Freedom Idaho, testified **in support** of **H 133**. This legislation provides openness and transparency to clarify the full intent of the law. It provides informed consent, which aids the health department's educational purposes.

Jinny Peterson, Meridian, Self, Health Freedom Idaho, testified **in support** of **H 133**. No matter the opinions held on vaccinations, it is important to stand up for liberties and rights. She said she had just received a mailed meningitis vaccination notification with no opt-out information included.

Sara Walton Brady, Health Freedom Idaho, testified **in support** of **H 133**. Many people who were unaware of the exemption would have made a different choice.

Karen Echeverria, Executive Director, Idaho School Board Association, testified **in opposition** to **H 133**. Although agreeing with parental rights regarding immunization choice, the association members must also protect all children and staff in the school buildings. Parents make immunization decisions well before the children reach school age and are aware of what must be provided.

Responding to questions, **Ms. Echeverria** stated there are families, not philosophically opposed to immunizations, who have not followed up with the immunization process and opt out for convenience. School district notification of all options is evidenced by Idaho's highest exemption rate in the nation. This legislation is unnecessary.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Green(2)** made a motion to send **H 133** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Speaking **in support** of the motion were **Reps. Green(2), Zollinger, Davis, and Vander Woude**. They noted the information is already provided, this legislation provides transparency, and everyone needs to know their options.

Speaking **in opposition** to the motion were **Reps. Likely, Chew, Rubel, and Chairman Wood**. Concern was expressed regarding the inclusion of private daycares and private schools. Also of concern was the lack of data indicating the schools are not providing the information.

After further discussion, **Ms. Echeverria** was invited to answer a question. She said all school districts have an immunization exemption policy which includes providing opt-out information to parents.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Wood called for a vote on the motion to send **H 133** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Gibbs, Likley, Chew, Rubel, and Chairman Wood** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Giddings** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary