

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 29, 2024

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Yamamoto, Vice Chairman McCann, Representatives Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Reps. Mathias and Ehardt

**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.

**Chair Yamamoto** called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**H 636:  
RS 31538:** **Rep. Raybould** presented **H 636** and **RS 31538**, legislation regarding Office of Early Childhood. She said **RS 31538** would replace **H 636**, due to an incorrect implementation date. She said **RS 31538** shows the correct implementation date of July 1, 2024.

**Rep. Raybould** said **H 636** would create an Office of Early Childhood to oversee the state's early childhood services. She spoke about accountability, transparency, and flexibility. She said this would remove the barrier of two departments and help identify ways to do the job better.

**Dr. Jean Henscheid**, League of Women Voters of Idaho, testified **in support of H 636** and said this would allow state and private agencies to align, lower mediation costs, and support parents and families.

**Ron Nate**, Idaho Freedom Foundation, spoke **in opposition to H 636**. He said this legislation mingles state funds with private funds. He spoke about federal code and dependence on the federal government.

**Emily Allen**, Idaho Voices for Children, testified **in support of H 636**, and said early childhood is complex. She said there is no need to create new programs as infant and toddler programs would transfer from the Department of Health and Welfare.

Committee members spoke about early childhood education and the Idaho Constitution. Other committee members spoke about the responsibility to children.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to introduce **RS 31538**.

**SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:** **Rep. Clow** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 636** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to introduce **RS 31538** and recommend it be sent directly to the second reading calendar.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE:** Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 8 AYE, 6 NAY, and 2 Absent/Excused.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Yamamoto, McCann, Garner, Lanting, Nelsen, Sauter, Berch, and Galaviz.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Clow, Mendive, Wisniewski, Hawkins, Hill, and Price.** **Reps. Ehardt and Mathias were absent/ excused.** **Rep. Raybould** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**RS 31541:** **Rep. Healy** presented **RS 31541**, proposed legislation regarding behavioral telehealth and schools. She said this legislation would allow schools to provide a safe and secure area for a student to access telehealth appointments. She said this would allow parents to remain at work and students would miss less school.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to introduce **RS 31541**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 am.

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Representative Yamamoto  
Chair

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Amy Bengtzen  
Secretary