

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 12, 2024

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Vander Woude, Vice Chairman Erickson, Representatives Blanksma, Kingsley, Mitchell, Dixon(24), Gallagher, Healey, Redman, Wheeler, Chew (Beazer), Rubel, Roberts

**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.

MOTION: **Rep. Roberts** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 29, March 4, and 5, 2024, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1288: **Rep. Jordan Redman**, District 3, presented **S 1288** to add chiropractors as a qualified professional to return a youth to play after a concussion. This adds another professional option when a doctor or athletic trainer is not available.

Caroline Merritt, Idaho Association of Chiropractic Physicians, further presented **S 1288**. Chiropractic physicians already have the training and treat clients with concussions. The change aligns the scope of practice with athletic trainers, some of whom are supervised by chiropractic physicians. Concussion management continuing education and additional care referrals are included.

Answering questions, **Ms. Merritt** said the training requirements align with physician or nurse practitioner masters programs. Placing authority with the Board of Chiropractors was requested by the Board of Medicine.

Dr. Eric Thompson, Chiropractor, testified **in support** of **S 1288**, explaining how neuromuscular specialists are integral to the team care of youth patients.

Greg Ferch, Self, Chiropractor, testified **in support** of **S 1288**, noting the chiropractor physicians are the only ones in this legislation with specific concussion continuing educational requirements.

Dr. Caroline Faure, Professor, Idaho State University, testified **in opposition** to **S 1288**. Idaho already has one of the finest concussion statutes in the nation. Athletic trainers were not a part of designing this legislation. Although a possible resource, there has been no use of nurse practitioners on the sidelines. This is a brain injury which often requires prescriptions, which the chiropractic physicians cannot provide.

Dr. Jeremai Hafer, President, Idaho Association of Chiropractic Physicians, testified **in support** of **S 1288**. With a more than profound training to diagnose and treat concussions, chiropractor physicians are more than qualified.

Megan Lawler, Self, Athletic Trainer, testified **in opposition** to **S 1288**. Concussions present differently in every child. Concussion care is constantly being updated.

MOTION: **Rep. Gallagher** made a motion to send **S 1288** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Blanksma made a substitute motion to **HOLD S 1288** in committee.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: Rep. Blanksma made a unanimous consent request to withdraw her substitute motion to **HOLD S 1288** in committee. There being no objection the request was granted.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Blanksma made a substitute motion to **HOLD S 1288** in committee until Wednesday, March 13, 2024. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Due to time constraints, **S 1351** will be carried over to the meeting of March 13, 2024.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary