

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 19, 2020

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Martin, Vice Chair Souza, Senators Heider, Lee, Harris, Burtenshaw, Bayer, Jordan, and Nelson

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies, and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Martin** called to order the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) at 3:13 p.m.

HCR 33 Stating Findings And Recognizing Missing And Murdered Indigenous Persons As A Crisis In Idaho.
Chairman Martin announced that **HCR 33** was a place holder and was addressed in another committee, so this Committee will not be discussing it today. He said they would see it on the floor of the Senate.

HJM 012 **Senator Lee** presented **HJM 012**, Relating to Controlled Substances. She stated that this Joint Memorial sends a message of appreciation to the President of the United States for work on the national level to try to combat the importation of illegal drugs, specifically opioids and fentanyl. Everything that can be done should be done to hold these individuals accountable, especially in China and Mexico, who are creating a scourge in society through the importation of illegal drugs. It holds accountable the manufacturers, the countries, and the banking institutions that provide the funds for this illegal activity. This Joint Memorial encourages the federal government to continue doing all it can to prevent illegal drugs from coming into the U.S. from the international market.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Souza** commented on the high importance of this resolution and asked what action Senator Lee is looking for. **Senator Lee** explained that Joint Memorials are affirmations of what the Legislature expects on the federal level, and this is the expectation of the federal government to continue to protect safety within the United States.

Senators Lee, Harris, and Vice Chair Souza discussed the issue of illegal drugs being transported by mail, and technology used to detect that.

MOTION: **Senator Burtenshaw** moved to send **HJM 012** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Chairman Martin welcomed Colby Jeppesen in the audience, son of Department of Health and Welfare Director, Dave Jeppesen. Colby is a junior at Eagle High School and is interested in serving in the page program next year.

RS 27719

Chairman Martin asked for a unanimous consent request and apologized to the Committee for the late notice. He stated it was not received in time to add it to the agenda. **Chairman Martin** asked Senator Harris to explain the RS.

Senator Harris explained that when a hospital has someone in restraints, according to Idaho standards, a nurse has to check the patient every 15 minutes and document the observation. It's a burden of unnecessary time and money to have a nurse constantly at the bedside. This RS relaxes those rules. The Department of Health and Welfare and hospitals use a better approach.

Senator Lee provided additional information for the Committee's understanding. She stated this regulation is unique to Idaho and is more restrictive than the standards set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). She explained that this rule has created additional costs for sitters in the rooms of patients, and the reason we have this more restrictive rule in Idaho is because State Hospital North (SHN) is not an accredited institution. This RS does not reduce the requirements, or reduce the serious nature of when patients are in restraints. This rule was set up for SHN, and it increases costs for all the other hospitals. In no way is this RS intended to reduce patient safety. This is a rule that is intended to be fixed in statute, so it can be clarified for all the hospitals.

MOTION:

Chairman Martin asked for unanimous consent to send **RS 27719** to the State Affairs Committee for printing. There were no objections.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Martin** adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

Senator Martin
Chair

Margo Miller
Secretary