

MINUTES  
**SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Martin, Vice Chairman Riggs, Senators Heider, Lee, Harris, VanOrden (Bair), Zito, Stennett, and Wintrow

**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 the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.

**Vice Chair Riggs** gave a brief update on the rules and red line corrections. **Chairman Martin** noted voting on the dockets was withheld pending the Committee's examination of the changes.

**PRESENTATION:** **SMA: Newborn Screening. Stephanie Walters**, Clinical Coordinator, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) Maternal and Child Health, outlined the process of newborn screening. She stated newborn screening was one of the nation's most successful public health programs. When newborns receive an early diagnosis and treatment, families and health care providers can successfully manage many of the identified conditions. **Ms. Walters** noted because of the screening, the quality of life for the infant was improved and the burden of health care costs were reduced (Attachment 1).

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Wintrow** remarked she was puzzled about where the money came from as the State did not fund newborn screening and who paid for the screening. **Ms. Walters** reported the money currently came from the fees associated with collection costs through the insurance companies.

**PRESENTATION:** **Hayley McDonald**, Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant, Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA), Certified Surgical Technologist (CST-T), The Lotus Tree Therapy Center, reported on the importance of newborn screening. She related a story about her daughter who was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a neuromuscular disease that affected the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord, impeding a person's ability to walk, swallow, and breathe, and how even though she passed the newborn screening, she was finally diagnosed with this disease and died at the age of seven months. Her message was that newborn screening saved lives by giving parents of babies an immediate diagnosis. Her purpose was to raise awareness (Attachment 2).

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator VanOrden** and **Ms. Walters** discussed the various types of infant screenings tests. They discussed that screening for hearing was not included or required in newborn screening, but voluntary.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Chairman Martin passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Riggs.

**DOCKET NO.**  
**15-0200-2100**

**Notice of Omnibus Rulemaking - Proposed Rule. Mike Walsh**, Rehabilitation Services Chief, Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, highlighted the changes in the docket. He noted chapters were combined and outdated language eliminated. He pointed out some proposed changes to the Committee.

**DISCUSSION:**

A discussion ensued among the Committee members as to how to implement the proposed changes in temporary rule.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Riggs passed the gavel back to Chairman Martin.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Martin** adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

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Senator Martin  
Chair

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Lena Amoah  
Secretary

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Linda Kambeitz, Asst. Secretary