

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 03, 2022

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Crane, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Scott, Andrus, Young, Furniss, Hanks, Skaug, Gannon, Mathias (Woodings)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Crane called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Young** made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2022, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

HCR 40: **Rep. Scott** presented **HCR 40** which ends the State of Emergency implemented by **Governor Brad Little**. Idaho has been in an emergency for 715 consecutive days. The emergency was put into effect when the uphill battle of the coronavirus began on March 15th, 2020. This legislation would urge the Governor to end the State of Emergency. As stated by Rep. Scott, the state of Idaho is no longer in an emergency and should follow the other states that have ended their state of emergency.

During committee discussion, **Rep. Woodings** asked what the outcome would be for the 600 federal healthcare workers if the State of Emergency ended. She referred to Idaho's current low vaccination rate and the high hospitalizations. **Rep. Scott** stated those positions would be filled by citizens from Idaho, and she also referred to \$2 billion in surplus that the State of Idaho has available.

Del Chapel, Steven Keiser, Nina Beesley, Rachelle Ottosen, and Michael Lewis all testified **in support** of this legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Young** made a motion to send **HCR 40** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE:** Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 11 AYE and 3 NAY.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Crane, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Reps. Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Scott, Andrus, Young, Hanks, and Skaug.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Furniss, Gannon, and Woodings.** **Rep. Scott** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 704:
RS 29699:** **Rep. Dixon** presented **H 704** and **RS 29699**. **H 704** is replaced by **RS 29699** which both put into effect the requirement of any Non-Governmental Organization that assists in resettlement of refugees to the State of Idaho, that they report the name, age, sex, country of origin, and reason for resettlement to specific state agencies. There were previous concerns regarding what the definition of the term "refugee" is, and also the purpose for including "reason for resettlement" in the required report of information.

Del Chapel testified **in support** of the bill.

Georgette Siqueiros, the Development and Community Engagement Manager for the International Rescue Committee, testified **in opposition** of the bill. Ms. Siqueiros stated that if personal information were to be released, it could put a refugee at risk.

MOTION: **Rep. Young** made a motion to **HOLD H 704** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to introduce **RS 29699** 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 11 AYE, 2 NAY and 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Crane, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Reps. Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Scott, Andrus, Young, Furniss, Hanks, and Skaug. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Gannon and Woodings. Rep. Monks was absent/excused. Rep. Dixon** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 666: **Rep. DeMordaunt** presented **H 666** which prohibits the distribution of harmful materials to children. These specific materials include obscene depictions in movies, books, and other media. This bill would remove all of these harmful materials from school, libraries, universities, and museums. Rep. DeMordaunt stated that none of these materials should be used as a tool to teach human sexuality, and should never be included in schools or public libraries.

Stephanie Gifford and Blaine Konzatti both testified **in support** of the bill, and also provided information used in the introduction of the bill. Ms. Gifford stated the explicit material provided to the committee was found in the juvenile section of public libraries in Idaho.

Erin Kennedy and Huda Shaltry testified **in opposition** and stated the bill was written with vague verbiage, stating the bill saying "harmful materials" isn't specific enough, and there needs to be more description on whether it is regarding sexual material, pornographic materials, or materials with violence, or about guns, or even mental health conditions. There were comments on whether or not the legislation is about removing books from public libraries, or if it is to criminalize librarians who are giving these books out to children.

Nina Beesley, Kara Claridge, Craig Cobia, Michael Hon, Debbie Alis, and Rachelle Otteson all testified **in support** of **H 666**. The common factor was that it was a protection against harmful material for children, and there are harmful materials readily available to children in libraries and schools that shouldn't be.

Rep. DeMordaunt clarified that the claim this bill would criminalise librarians is false, and the goal is to not make the materials available to children.

MOTION: **Rep. Young** made a motion to send **H 666** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Woodings mentioned Title 18 of Idaho Code, and stated this legislation does in fact criminalize librarians, and does not correct the problem that it is intending to correct.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 12 AYE, 2 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Crane, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Reps. Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Scott, Andrus, Young, Furniss, Hanks, and Skaug. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Gannon and Mathias. Rep. DeMordaunt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Representative Crane
Chair

Haley Villa
Secretary