

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 20, 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 (Wilson), 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.

H 499: **Rep. Jacyn Gallagher**, District 9, presented **H 499**, the Dietary Supplement Act to protect access to vitamins and supplements, assure Idaho's sovereignty from federal overreach, and guarantee free market access. A growing amount of documentation supports a link between ingestion of dietary supplements and the prevention of disease. This legislation addresses the concern regarding future federal legislation to increase supplement regulation, which would drive smaller manufacturers out of business. Supplement regulations have been in Idaho Code for 29 years. Dietary supplements are not drugs. This legislation does not remove the ability to add new substances to the controlled substances schedules.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to send **H 499** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Rubel expressed agreement with the concept and concern it sends a confusing message that Idaho can defy federal law.

Daniel Freedman, Self, testified **in support** of **H 499**. It is important to have a number of healthcare options, including less risky natural sources. Federal regulation changes have already impacted supplement availability. It is Idaho's job to preserve the access to natural, safe supplemental substances as a fundamental right of all Idahoans.

Laura Demaray, Self, testified **in support** of **H 499**. She expressed concern regarding production of drugs in China or other countries. This legislation supports diverse healthcare models and is a part of Idaho's robust healthcare program.

Due to technical difficulties **Mary Kay Alix** was unable to testify remotely.

Chairman Vander Woude announced she signed up to testify **in support** of **H 499**.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Vander Woude** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 499** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Rubel, and Wilson** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Gallagher** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 525: **Rep. Jacyn Gallagher**, District 9, presented **H 525**. This legislation for the powers and duties of the Public Health District boards makes a verbiage change to the phrase "to do all things required" by replacing "all" with "necessary and reasonable."

Sen. Brian Lenney, District 13, further presented **H 525**. This limit for the boards of the public health districts insures they guide as trusted advisors instead of going into an unchecked power role. It adds a layer of accountability.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to send **H 525** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Laura Demaray, Self, testified **in support** of **H 525**. There are conflicting ideas of who has control over the ability to make decisions for health districts. This legislation clears up that issue.

Daniel Freedman, Self, testified **in support** of **H 525**. The health boards serve well with advice and good, sound information which allows Idahoans to make their own healthcare choices. Voting by citizens holds other officials accountable, but not the health boards.

Rep. Blanksma informed the committee the boards are populated by elected County Commissioners. Only if a County Commissioner chooses a representative, is there someone on the board who is not elected.

Due to technical difficulties **Mary Kay Alix** was unable to testify remotely. **Chairman Vander Woude** announced she signed up to testify **in support** of **H 525**.

David Pettinger, Self, testified **in support** of **H 525**, stating the previous use of "all" has been demonstrated to include the use of law enforcement and shutting down district health offices.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Vander Woude** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 525** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Rep. Rubel** stated she is **in support** of **H 525** but may change her vote on the floor. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wilson** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Gallagher** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 527: **Rep. Redman**, District 3, presented **H 527**, legislation to move the regulatory Board of Pharmacy reforms into statute in order to make them permanent. There is no change to scope of practice, fees, or authority.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to send **H 527** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Redman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary