

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 04, 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, Rubel, Roberts

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Mitchell, Redman

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 633: **Rep. Megan Blanksma**, District 8, presented **H 633** to extend the current postpartum Medicaid coverage to twelve months at a 90/10 federal funding match which, if reduced, triggers a legislative review.

MOTION: **Rep. Dixon(24)** made a motion to send **H 633** to floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Dr. Sara Thomson, St. Alphonsus Health System, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, testified **in support** of **H 633**. Many health problems are discovered or worsened with a pregnancy. This can also reduce short-interval pregnancies and their related health issues.

Ivy Smith, on behalf of **Hillarie Hagen**, Idaho Voices for Children, testified **in support** of **H 633**. Postpartum depression impacts infants and families. The current after birth renewal application can lead to coverage gaps.

Lucile Scopinich, United Women in Faith, testified **in support** of **H 633** stating this change helps rural families at the beginning of these new lives.

Dr. Katie Gentry, Idaho Coalition of State Healthcare, testified **in support** of **H 633**. Maternal mortality rates reflect the challenges faced by new mothers.

Donalee Meek, Mental Health Therapist, testified **in support** of **H 633**. This provides needed support during a time when families experience financial and health issues.

Fred Birnbaum, Idaho Freedom Foundation, testified **in opposition** to **H 633**. The Medicaid federal funding is part of the federal debt and impacts the nationwide inflation.

Erin Bennett, American Heart Association, testified **in support** of **H 633**. Extending coverage insures women who are at risk for heart disease complications receive the needed healthcare.

David Ripley, Executive Director, Idaho Chooses Life, testified **in support** of **H 633**, which affirms the value of human life by providing structure as women deal with life challenges.

Kyle Rooks, Idaho Community Health Center Association, testified **in support** of **H 633**. By extending the coverage, new mothers will have assured coverage throughout the year.

Mark Horrocks, Chief Medical Officer, Health West, testified **in support** of **H 633**. This legislation allows more time and care for these moms and their families, protecting Idaho's future.

In closing remarks, **Rep. Blanksma**, said the legislation has been crafted with the acknowledgment of any possible federal funding change in the review provision.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE:**

Rep. Gallagher requested a roll call vote. **Motion carried by a vote of 9 AYE, 2 NAY, and 2 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Erickson, Blanksma, Dixon(24), Healey, Wheeler, Schmick, Rubel, Roberts, and Vander Woude. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Kingsley and Gallagher. Reps. Mitchell and Redman were absent/excused. Rep. Blanksma** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chairman Vander Woude turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Erickson**.

HCR 30:

Rep. John Vander Woude, District 22, presented **HCR 30**, which requests the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) seek cost savings through possible work requirements and allowing individuals the choice of private insurance or Medicaid. This addresses the limitations of the part-time legislature, acknowledging the DHW full-time knowledge for solutions.

MOTION:

Rep. Healey made a motion to send **HCR 30** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Roberts** requested he be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Vander Woude** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 685:

Rep. John Vander Woude, District 22, presented **H 685**, legislation to establish a Medicaid Stabilization Fund for excess appropriations which have previously gone into the General Fund. Amounts within the stabilization fund will first be returned to the Millennium Fund and then await legislative appropriation. In an economic downturn this fund can provide additional revenue for Medicaid programs.

MOTION:

Rep. Roberts made a motion to send **H 685** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Hillarie Hagen, Senior Policy Associate, Idaho Voices for Children, Idaho Supports Medicaid, testified **in support** of **H 685**. The fund will assure healthcare monies are used for healthcare.

David Lehman, Idaho Association of Community Providers, AARP, testified **in support** of **H 685**, which allows Idaho to move from a reactive to a responsive position.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Chairman Erickson called for a vote on the motion to send **H 685** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Kingsley and Gallagher** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Vander Woude** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Vice Chairman Erickson turned the gavel over to **Chairman Vander Woude**.

Chairman Vander Woude welcomed **Rep. Schmick** who is substitute for **Rep. Chew**.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Representative Erickson
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary