

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW20

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Vander Woude, Vice Chairman Erickson, Representatives Blanksma, Kingsley, Mitchell, Dixon(24), Gallagher, Healey, Redman, Wheeler, Chew (Beazer), 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 8:00 a.m.

**S 1288:** **Chairman Vander Woude** returned **S 1288** to the committee for consideration, which was held in committee until Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

Testifying **in opposition** to **S 1288** were **Kristie Pardue**, Speech Language Pathologist, St. Luke's Sports Medicine Concussion Clinic; **Dr. Kurt Nilsson**, Sports Medicine Physician, Medical Director, St. Luke's Sports Medicine, Sports Concussion Clinic; **Merrill Hoge**, Parent, Athlete, Coach; **Brent Faure**, Director, Sports Medicine, Portneuf Hospital; **Ty Jones**, Idaho High School Activities Association; **Kevin Taylor**, Athletic Trainer, St. Luke's Sports Medicine; **Kip Gerbinak**, St. Luke's Hospital.

Their comments included concern regarding the lack of stakeholder input, the importance of return-to-learn, non-referrals by chiropractors, the consequences of improper evaluation, along with the importance of daily contact with the athletes, families, and school staff. Concussion management has made landmark changes, evolving from cocoon to active therapy.

**Lauren Hoyt**, Clinical Sports Trainer, Northwest Nazarene University, Idaho Athletic Trainers Association, testified **in a neutral position** to **S 1288**. Nurse practitioners are being used to manage and clear youth with concussions. There are also athletic trainers who have chiropractic physician oversight.

**Rep. Redman**, in closing, remarked stakeholders were contacted and several attempts to reach out yielded no responses. Sixty-two percent of Idaho's high schools report no athletic trainer on the sidelines. All precautions need to be taken to assure access is available for all Idaho school athletes.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Healey** made a motion to send **S 1288** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:** **Rep. Blanksma** made a substitute motion to **HOLD S 1288** in committee.

Committee discussion included the extensive training chiropractic physicians receive, the importance of clearing children pulled from games, the changing neurological damage protocols, the lack of stakeholder involvement, and the need to help schools without athletic trainers on the sidelines.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** **Chairman Vander Woude** stated he was in doubt regarding the voice vote and called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion. **Substitute motion carried by a vote of 7 AYE, 6 NAY. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Erickson, Blanksma, Dixon(24), Wheeler, Beazer, Rubel, Roberts. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Kingsley, Mitchell, Gallagher, Healey, Redman, Vander Woude.**

**S 1351:** **Sen. Cindy Carlson**, District 7, presented **S 1351** to allow the examination of specified Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) records by citizens. This additional government transparency will allow research under a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), protecting the proprietary information.

Responding to the committee, **Sen. Carlson** stated the DHW directs how and where this information is available in their offices.

**Joseph Gish**, Self, testified **in support** of **S 1351**. He shared how he removed many outdated Idaho voter listings based on available information. This additional information is expected to further clean up the voter lists.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Redman** made a motion to send **S 1351** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** **Chairman Vander Woude** stated he was in doubt regarding the voice vote and called for a roll call vote on the motion. **Motion failed by a vote of 6 AYE, 7 NAY. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Kingsley, Mitchell, Gallagher, Healey, Redman, Vander Woude. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Erickson, Blanksma, Dixon(24), Wheeler, Beazer, Rubel, Roberts.**

**S 1352:** **Rep. Julianne Young**, District 30, presented **S 1352**, legislation to protect the conscience rights of counselors and therapists, assuring they are not penalized when they decline to support client goals, outcomes or behaviors in conflict with their sincerely held moral principals.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to send **S 1352** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Testifying **in support** of **S 1352** were **Marcie Scarrow**, Counselor; **Peggy McFarland**, Clinical Counselor, Counseling Teacher; **Hilber Nelson**, Clinical Social Worker, Trauma Therapy; **Grace Howat**, Policy Assistant, Idaho Policy Center; **Jennifer Arzola**, Self; **Joy Huffman**, Self; **Dr. Lynn Laird**, Self; **Matt Sharp**, Senior Counsel, Alliance of Freedom; **Mark Hand**, Self.

Their comments included information on how political world view model mandates have impacted therapists and clients. Providing ethical referrals are standards of care. Vulnerable professions have been targeted. Mandates deny the ability to treat all aspects of a client's goals. Idaho must protect the conscience rights of all healthcare providers. This does not permit a counselor to force his own beliefs on a client.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Vander Woude** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1352** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Roberts** and **Rubel** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Young** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

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Representative Vander Woude  
Chair

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Irene Moore  
Secretary