

# Idaho Academy of Family Physicians 2017 Legislative Update - Week 4

## The Week Ending February 3, 2017

Ken Burgess, Veritas Advisors, LLP – IAFP Legislative Advisor

### Health and Human Services week at Joint Finance Committee

#### Joint Finance/Appropriations Committee (JFAC)

This week JFAC was focused on the Department of Health and Welfare and the various divisions and programs within the Department of Health and Welfare. Director Dick Armstrong delivered a short, overarching presentation on Monday. This year's total budget request for the Department of Health and Welfare is \$2.8 billion. This represents a 3.5% increase over the current budget year.

Director Armstrong gave a high level overview of the department, focusing primarily on the department's top budget priority this session – a redesign of the children's mental health program. He defined it as a pragmatic approach to expand services to more Idaho children through Medicaid. The director elaborated on the importance of this issue, as it will affect everything from school performance to less stress on foster care to a decrease in problems regarding non-functional adults.

This fiscal year, the Department's expenditures totaled \$2.5 billion of which \$628.5 million was from the state general fund. Expenditures have almost doubled since 2004. He also noted his employee turnover rate in Fiscal Year 2016 was 12% - down from 15% in 2015. This budget contains a specific request for a pay increase in the hopes of being more market competitive and addressing this issue. Attached, you will find the entire budget analysis, including Fiscal Year 2018.

Of note for next week: Director Armstrong is delivering a similar 2018 Budget overview presentation to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee on Tuesday, February 7 beginning at 3:00 pm. If interested, you can access a live audio streaming of this presentation by going to this legislative website: <http://idahoptv.org/insession/leg.cfm> In the dropdown menu select (1) "Committee", (2) "Senate", and (3) "Health and Welfare".

### Legislation of interest:

**H004** to add the **prescribing of tobacco cessation products to the practice of pharmacy** unanimously passed the full House of Representatives and was given a hearing in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee where it also passed on a unanimous voice vote to the Senate floor for debate and action. FMRI Resident, Dr. Billy Galligar testified against the legislation in the Senate Committee citing concerns about a pharmacist's ability to understand the full scope of medical conditions, medications and other issues a patient may be experiencing.

**H005** to enhance the use of the **Prescription Monitoring Program for controlled substances** and allow greater access to the database by pharmacists. This bill also unanimously passed the full House and the Senate Health and Welfare Committees this week. It is now to be debated and voted on in the full Senate and expected to pass with no opposition.

**H006** **Controlled Substances** -- This bill aligns Idaho law with recent DEA changes, to provide conformance with DEA schedules. Two additional products have been added to the schedule: eluxadoline and brivaracetam. This bill passed the full House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees unanimously and will likely pass the full Senate early this week.

**H039** **“Value-based” payments**. This legislation directs the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to pursue a Value-based payment system for provider-based managed care in the Medicaid program. This bill was introduced last week and is yet to be scheduled for a hearing in the House Health and Welfare Committee.

### **New Legislation of Interest:**

**H 82** **Sales Tax Exemptions for Free Medical Clinics** by Rep. Kauffman. This legislation would provide sales and use tax exemption for sales to or purchased by free medical clinics. Fiscal impact: Recent yearly average sales tax obligation by Idaho’s ten registered Free Clinics in Idaho is \$10,675.00. This bill unanimously passed the House Revenue and Taxation Committee and is slated to be debated and voted by the full House this week.

**H 91** **Immunization Registry**. This legislation introduced in House Health and Welfare Committee on Wednesday simply requires that all providers who immunize patients in Idaho shall enter all immunizations, with the exception of adult influenza vaccines, into the Idaho Immunization Reminder Information System (IRIS). This bill is from the Idaho Medical Association, and is awaiting a full hearing in the committee with no firm timeline for said hearing.

### **On the schedule:**

**Senate Health and Welfare Committee, Tuesday February 7, 3:00 PM, H&W director Dick Armstrong presentation on Department Budget overview.**

**If you have questions regarding a piece of legislation or you would like the IAFP to monitor specific legislation that is not currently being monitored, please contact Neva Santos, IAFP Executive Director at [Idahoafp@aol.com](mailto:Idahoafp@aol.com) or (208) 323-1156.**

**Don’t miss the IAFP “Excellence in Primary Care Seminar” on March 17 and 18, 2017 at Schweitzer Mountain Resort in Sandpoint, Idaho. Experience the unparalleled snow on Schweitzer Mountain and earn up to 7 CME Credits. The amazing ski experience of Schweitzer Mountain is just a few minutes up the hill from beautiful Lake Pend Oreille and the picturesque town of Sandpoint. Log on to the IAFP Web page:**

**<http://idahofamilyphysicians.org/excellence-in-primary-care-seminar/> for more information about activities and events.**