

Idaho Academy of Family Physicians

2017 Legislative Update - Week 6

The Week Ending February 17, 2017

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Representative Fred Wood introduces partial gap solution proposal

This week House Health and Welfare Chairman Dr. Fred Wood introduced a proposal designed to provide some care coverage for a small portion of the 78,000 people in the “gap” population. The proposal (House Bill #160) would help provide care for a limited subgroup of adults who earn less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level, are not eligible for Medicaid or subsidized insurance through Idaho’s health insurance exchange, and are uninsured. The \$10.5 million proposal would be funded from the Idaho Millennium Fund. The Millennium Fund is a pot of money the State receives from the nationwide tobacco settlement. The endowment money from that fund is used to fund a number of tobacco-cessation programs in the state, including the IAFP’s “TAR WARS” program. Rep. Wood claims there would still be about \$6 million left available to fund those tobacco programs.

It remains to be seen exactly how many individuals this might assist, but he was careful to note it would only cover a limited number of adults and would not provide comprehensive care.

The proposal has been introduced and now awaits a full hearing in the House Health and Welfare Committee.

Legislation of interest:

[H004](#) to add the prescribing of tobacco cessation products to the practice of pharmacy has now unanimously passed both houses of the legislature and is awaiting action by Governor Otter.

[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 passed both houses unanimously and is awaiting action by the Governor.

[H006](#) Controlled Substances -- This bill aligns Idaho law with recent DEA changes, to provide conformance DEA schedules. Two additional products have been added to the schedule: eluxadoline and brivaracetam. Was signed by the governor on February 13th.

[H039](#) “Value-based” payments. Directs the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to pursue Value-based payment system for provider-based managed care in the Medicaid program. This bill was introduced on January 24 and has had no action in the House Health and Welfare Committee. **A revised version of this bill with the same intent, [H128](#), has been introduced and is awaiting action in House Health and Welfare.**

[H81](#) “Health Care J-1 Visa Waiver Program” This proposal amends the current Idaho Conrad J-1 Visa Waiver Program (J-1 Program) that allows qualifying Idaho healthcare organizations to apply for the placement of a foreign trained physician in federally-designated shortage areas as a

recruitment option of last resort. The amendments maintain the rural, primary care, and option of last resort focus of the J-1 Program while allowing no more than 10 of the 30 total waiver slots to be used annually for recruiting specialist physicians to federally designated shortage areas. This legislation passed favorably out of committee and is awaiting debate and action before the full House.

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 the ten designated free medical clinics in the state. This bill passed the House with only 3 NO votes and is awaiting action in the Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee.

H 91 Immunization Registry. This legislation introduced in House Health and Welfare Committee 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 had its full hearing in House Health and Welfare on Thursday, February 16th. The bill was sent to the house floor with a do pass recommendation, but received 4 no votes.

H 115 “Interstate Medical Licensure Compact” This legislation adds language authorizing the Board of Medicine to obtain criminal background check information when qualifying physicians for the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. The compact provides expedited licensure for physicians. This is especially useful in rural areas, given that they need replacements quickly because of their low population. Background checks and fingerprinting is currently not in the statute. This bill received its full hearing in House Health and Welfare on Thursday, February 16th. It received a unanimous do pass recommendation and was sent to the House floor.

S1058 “Telehealth access, cost coverage” This legislation will bolster the success of Idaho’s Telehealth Access Act. It would allow for costs of telehealth services to be covered in the same manner and to the same extent as if the services were delivered in person. This bill is the idea of Dr. Scott Dunn of Sandpoint and Senator Shawn Keough is sponsoring it. It now awaits a full hearing in the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee.

S1060 “Health care/cytomegalovirus” The purpose of the bill is to provide funding for the Department of Health and Welfare to develop and disseminate educational material to ensure the women of Idaho and their doctors have access to the most accurate and up-to-date information available regarding cytomegalovirus (CMV) prevention, infection, and treatment. Introduced in Senate Health and Welfare Committee on February 9. It is still awaiting action in committee.

New Legislation of Interest:

H128 “Medicaid, Agreements for Services” This bill is a revised version of **H39** and was introduced and referred to House Health and Welfare on February 10th. This bill directs the Department of Health and Welfare to pursue value-based payment opportunities up to and including full-risk, provider-based managed care for the Medicaid program. The purpose is to

improve health care for Medicaid participants at a reduced cost to Idaho taxpayers. Passed favorably out of Health and Welfare Committee and moves to action by the full House.

H160 “Healthcare Assistance Program” Introduced on Monday, February 13th, this legislation would authorize primary care, limited prescriptions, and care coordination to Idaho’s eligible population with income levels under 100% of the federal poverty guideline who are not eligible for Medicaid, the Advanced Payment of Tax Credit, and not currently eligible or enrolled in an employer sponsored or other government subsidized health care plan. This program will only cover a limited subgroup of adults and is not comprehensive care. It would be funded by \$10 million from the Idaho Millennium fund. It awaits its full hearing in House Health and Welfare.

H161 “Medical Lab Science Practitioners” Introduced on Monday, February 13th, the purpose of this bill is to provide licensure for the practice of Medical Laboratory Science. It ensures that those working in medical laboratories are qualified to perform laboratory testing and all activities related to the analysis of materials derived from the human body. It awaits its full hearing in House Health and Welfare.

S1081: “Immunization Assessment Board” This bill resets the Sunset date for the Immunization Assessment Board from 2017 to July 1, 2019. received do pass recommendation out of Senate Health and Welfare on Wednesday, February 15th and is awaiting Senate floor action.

RS 25274: To revise the legal age for possession or use of tobacco. This bill would raise the legal age of use/possession/acquiring of tobacco to 21. Was introduced in Senate State Affairs on Friday, 2/17 unanimously and awaits committee action.

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 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.