

## Idaho Academy of Family Physicians Legislative Update - Week 13

### **The Week Ending April 10, 2015**

#### **Elli Brown– IAFP Legislative Advisor**

After a long and contentious week the Idaho legislature adjourned Sine Die (according to Webster's Dictionary means; without any future date being designated) early Saturday morning, after 1:30am to be exact.

Coming into the 2015 session there were a few key issues we anticipated legislators to address - education, transportation, taxes and **Medicaid Redesign**. While taxes and Medicaid Redesign weren't able to gain enough traction, the legislature was able to find resolutions around teacher career ladders and transportation funding.

In addition to the key issues, some of the hot button issues of the 2015 legislative session included: Add the Words, chemical abortions, concealed carry, instant horse racing machines and cannabidiol oil.

This year the "going home bill" was HB312, dealing with **transportation funding**. When the House did not concur with the Senate amendments to HB312 a conference committee was convened, the first time since 2009. Six legislators, three members from each side of the rotunda, were tasked to work together toward compromise bill language. After two full days of negotiations, on Friday afternoon, the conference committee was able to agree upon a complete transportation funding package. Both sides waited for the conference committee report and new bill language, several drafting errors delayed the voting until the wee hours of Saturday morning.

While much of the attention was focused on striking a transportation compromise Friday, the House Judiciary, Rules and Administration committee voted to table [SB1067](#), dealing with **Idaho's Child support program**. The bill would have allowed the state to meet minimum federal requirements for working on child support cases with foreign countries. During the hearing committee members raised fears that it would subject Idahoans to Sharia and foreign laws, by acceding to a 2007 international treaty. The bill, which had passed the Senate unanimously, was tabled despite the Department of Health and Welfare expressing concerns with their ability to enforce child support without having access to the necessary tools or money. With the failure to pass SB1067 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is indicating that \$16.1 million in federal funding will be cut off immediately, along with the state's ability to use federal databases for child support enforcement. There was an attempt by Representative Rusche to bring the bill to the House floor despite having been tabled in committee – the motion failed to receive a 2/3 vote on the House floor to allow that discussion to take place. It is still unclear the total ramifications of tabling this bill however, it is clear it will have a severe impact on Idaho's support program. Currently there is talk around the need for the legislature to return to Boise to address the issue.

While it's disappointing **Medicaid Redesign** was not dealt with this legislative session there were several issues addressed in the healthcare realm. See below for a brief recap.

[HB107](#) **Idaho Immunization Assessment:** Extension of the program sunset date until 2017. The Idaho Immunization Assessment program is part of the federal program, Vaccines for Children. *On March 26<sup>th</sup> Governor Otter signed HB107 into law – effective July 1, 2015.*

[HB150](#) **Interstate Medical Licensure Medical Compact:** Creates a new model for physician licensing that would significantly reduce barriers for physicians who wish to practice in multiple states helping facilitate the use of telemedicine and increasing access to care and specialty providers in rural areas. *On March 25<sup>th</sup> Governor Otter signed HB150 into law – effective July 1, 2015.*

[HB154a](#) **Chemical Abortions:** Adds to existing law to provide requirements for chemical abortions and for administering certain drugs in abortions. Physicians would be required to conduct an in-person examination and counseling of a pregnant woman prior to prescribing an abortion-inducing drug. *On April 6<sup>th</sup> Governor Otter signed HB154a into law – effective July 1, 2015.*

[HB177](#) **Tanning Beds for Minors:** Amends the existing statute on tattoo, branding or body piercing to include use of commercial tanning beds. The statute requires parental consent for minors ages 14-18 and prohibits minors under the age of 14 to use of commercial tanning beds. *On March 23<sup>rd</sup> Governor Otter signed HB177 into law – effective July 1, 2015.*

[HB178](#) **Rural Physician Incentive Program (RPIP):** Increases the amount and number of loan repayment awards made to Idaho physicians through Idaho's RPIP - doubling the amount of awards from \$50,000 (\$12,500/year) up to \$100,000 (\$25,000/year) over 4 years. *On March 26<sup>th</sup> Governor Otter signed HB178 into law – effective July 1, 2015.*

[HB189](#) **Telemedicine and Telehealth:** Addresses barriers to care and identifies the benefits of telemedicine and outlines the acceptable use of telemedicine and telehealth in Idaho. *On March 25<sup>th</sup> Governor Otter signed HB189 into law – effective July 1, 2015.*

[HB218](#) - **State Healthcare Innovation Plan (SHIP):** Authorizes the Department of Health & Welfare to spend federal grant money for SHIP, including the creation of the **Healthcare Initiatives Program**. The new program will serve as the operational center for the SHIP grant and other state and federal healthcare programs that do not clearly fit within other existing departments. *On March 26<sup>th</sup> Governor Otter signed HB218 into law – effective July 1, 2015.*

[HB287](#) – **WWAMI Funding:** Funding for 5 additional students for fiscal year 2016, bringing the total class size to 35 students along with funding for the Kootenai Health, Family Medicine Residency of Idaho and Idaho State University Pocatello Family Medicine Residency Programs. *On April 3<sup>rd</sup> Governor Otter signed HB287 into law – effective July 1, 2015.*

[SB1062a](#) – **Direct Primary Care:** Creates a simple format for Direct Medical Care agreements on a contract stating that direct medical care is not considered insurance. *On April 9<sup>th</sup> Governor Otter signed SB1062a into law – effective July 1, 2015.*

**SB144- Joint Millennium Fund - Tar Wars Program:** For fiscal year 2016, the Millennium Fund includes the requested of \$68,500 for the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians' Tar Wars® program. This funding will allow continued outreach and education to schools throughout the state on the dangers of tobacco use. *On March 30<sup>th</sup> Governor Otter signed SB144 into law – effective July 1, 2015.*

**SB1146a Cannabidiol Oil,** Which allows parents of children suffering from intractable epilepsy to possess cannabidiol oil to treat seizures in their children. *The bill was delivered to Governor Otter on April 9<sup>th</sup> for signature into law. However, earlier in the session Governor Otter expressed his concern with this bill - it's unclear at this point if he will sign it into law.*

It has been a pleasure reporting for the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians for the 2015 legislative session – we would welcome the opportunity to work with you again the near future.

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE 67<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE IDAHO ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS MAY 15-17, 2015 AT THE RIVERSIDE HOTEL IN BOISE AND EARN 12.5 CME CREDITS.**

**CHECK OUT THE SKILLS WORKSHOPS ON IO PLACEMENT, EMERGENCY DELIVERIES, CHEST TUBE PLACEMENT, AND INTUBATION.**

**REGISTER AT <http://idahofamilyphysicians.org/iafp-conference/>**