



2017 IDAHO LEGISLATURE

UPDATE

February 27, 2017 through March 3, 2017

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For ANA Idaho and Nurse Leaders of Idaho*

Week 8

Heading into the final weeks of the 2017 Idaho Legislative Session, it continues to be very slow overall, and in particular with health-related bills. Next Monday, March 7th, is the absolute final day for bills to be introduced. Last Wednesday's agenda for the House H&W Committee included "Oil and Gas Commission Duties," "Noxious Weed – Japanese Yew," and "Fish and Game Programs." Any chance of a healthcare bill to address those in the Gap, vanished on Monday, when House H&W Chairman, Representative Fred Wood of Burley withdrew his bill, H0160, the Health Care Assistance Act, saying there was not enough support within his committee, let alone in the full House. Friday, Senator Marv Hagadorn of Meridian, who worked on the bill with Representative Wood and co-chaired the interim workgroup, introduced the same bill in the Senate. Last year the Senate passed a bill to allow the administration to seek waivers from the federal government to expand Medicaid to cover those in the Gap. The bill failed when it got to the House. The same may happen again this year. Politics in the House is ruled by the Republican Party and is fragmented. There are at least four factions in the Legislature, the social Democrats who would like to see full Medicaid expansion; moderate Republicans/Libertarians who tend to be more pragmatic and would like to see at least some sort of primary care program with personal responsibility for those in the Gap; the Tea Party Republicans who cherish small government and disdain any federal involvement or regulation, and the Readouts who are fearful of government intrusion in to their lives to the point of advocating cessation. The House Republican caucus functions under Speaker Bedke's rule, "the majority of the majority." Within the caucus there must be a majority of Republicans to move a bill. With the internal fragmentation of the party and the desire to wait and see what Congress will do with "Repeal, Revise and Replace" the Affordable Care Act, there is little chance that any healthcare bill will pass this year in the Idaho House.

Now may be time to refocus on what Congress might do. This week former Speaker of the U.S. House, John Boehner, indicated that the Republicans don't have a cohesive plan to replace the Affordable Care Act, and the best that might come are some adjustment under a new title. One concept being discussed is to replace Medicaid with block grants to states. Currently Medicaid is administered by the states under extensive federal rules, with 70 – 90% funded by the federal government. Block grants would provide funds to the states to control their own Medicaid program. How the funding would occur or what guiderails on state run programs has not been defined. Potentially it could drastically alter coverage for the poor, the disabled and the elderly. With a vague replacement plan, efforts should be on preserving Medicaid and Medicare, expanding coverage and providing access for all the poor, rather



than gutting existing programs. ANA Idaho and Nurse Leaders of Idaho will be launching a new platform to connect with Idaho's two U.S. Senators and two Representatives to tell them how important these existing programs are to the health of Idaho.

HEALTHCARE BILLS

Health Care Assistance Act – H0160 - Withdrawn

Withdrawn by Representative Fred Wood in the House, reintroduced by Senator Marv Hagadorn in the Senate. Senate bill number not yet assigned.

- Coordination of Primary Care with a focus on managing chronic conditions
 - Primary Care
 - Limited Prescriptions
 - Care Coordination
- Providers receive a monthly payment per participant they manage under the program for primary care, prescriptions and care coordination
- Patients will have a co-pay not to exceed \$20
- Eligibility for the program will be limited to specific chronic conditions to be defined in rule
- Funding for the program (\$10M) will come from the Tobacco Settlement Millennium Fund
- Enrollment in the program, if passed, will be January 1, 2018

Community Primary Care Program – S1082 – Held by Chairman, Not Scheduled for Hearing

This is the bill drafted by Senator Steven Thayne who also was a member of the interim workgroup. His bill is similar, but with much more detail, and focuses on “Direct Primary Care” where patients pay directly for their care without the provider having to work with insurance contracts or submit claims.

Goal to improve health of low-income Idahoans and assist them in developing self-sufficiency
Administered by the Board of the Catastrophic Health Care Program

- Includes primary care, limited prescriptions and care coordination
- Providers, physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists, would receive up to \$600 per year per participant to provide an annual wellness exam, same-day or next-day primary care visits, weight management, limited procedures, care coordination including diabetes, blood pressure, mental health and hospitalization follow-up; discount prescriptions. A price list is included for specific procedures, laboratory and imaging
- A provider can be paid an additional \$400 to provide personal improvement planning and life skills training. This is optional for participants. Patients must meet frequently with their provider, social worker or counselor.
- Details of life skills training including personal budgeting, cooking, conflict resolution, parenting are included



- Participants can enroll for up to two years and must meet enrollment criteria and adhere to program requirements
- Funding for the program is from the State Catastrophic Healthcare Fund

PRESCRIPTION AUTHORITY FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS - H0212

Passed the House H&W Committee. Under the proposal, psychologists would be required to complete training equivalent to psychiatric nurse practitioners. With the lack of adequate mental health services across rural Idaho this bill will expand access to mental health care.

BILLS OF INTEREST TO NURSING

- H0003** **PHARMACISTS** – Allows pharmacists to prescribe and administer a tuberculin purified derivative product for screening purposes under certain circumstances. Passed House. Approved by Senate. Signed by Governor. Becomes Law.
- H0004** **PHARMACISTS** – Allows pharmacists to prescribe tobacco cessation products. Passed House. Approved by Senate. Signed by Governor. Becomes Law.
- H0081** **J-1 VISA WAIVER PROGRAM** – The Visa Waiver Program currently allows recruitment of up to 30 foreign primary care physicians to practice in underserved areas. The bill would allow 10 of the 30 positions to be used to recruit specialty physicians. Passed House. Second Reading Senate Floor.
- H0091** **IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY** – Idaho Immunization Reminder Information System (IRIS) reporting. IRIS is maintained by the Department of Health & Welfare and is a centralized database to track and notify providers and patients of recommended vaccinations, immunization information, and recall notifications. There is an opt-out provision for those who do not wish to be tracked. Failed House. Bill Died.
- H0146** **SEXUAL ASSAULT MEDICAL EXAMS, ASSAULT EVIDENCE, NOTIFICATION** – Victims of sexual assault cannot be denied a medical examination. Inability to pay cannot be an obstacle to receiving an examination. Addresses retention of evidence and notification of victim of case status change. Passed House. Senate Judiciary & Rules Committee.
- H0160** **HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** – Primary care, limited prescription and care coordination to cover primary healthcare for those not qualifying for employer or governmental coverage or subsidy including Medicaid, Medicare or enrollment in the healthcare exchange. House Health & Welfare – Withdrawn.
- H0161** **LICENSING OF MEDICAL LABORATORY PRACTITIONERS** – Establishes licensure requirements for medical lab science practitioners. House Health & Welfare.



- H0191** **PHARMACY PRESCRIPTION AUTHORITY** – Would allow the Board of Pharmacy to authorize pharmacists to prescribe. Passed House. Senate H&W Committee.

- H0212** **PSYCHOLOGISTS PRESCRIPTION AUTHORITY** – Allow limited prescription authority for mental health drugs. Passed House H&W Committee. Second Reading House Floor.

- S1003** **NURSES LICENSES, EMERITUS/REINSTATE** - Eliminates the necessity for a nurse to renew a license on emeritus status. Passed Senate. Passed House. Sent to the Governor.

- S1004** **NURSING BOARD COMPENSATION REVISED** – Increase compensation for Board of Nursing members from \$50/day to \$75/day. Passed Senate. Passed House. Signed by Governor. Becomes Law.

- S1050** **IMMUNIZATION FORM** – Allows parents to use any written communication to decline having their children immunized rather than using the Department of H&W form that includes acknowledgement of the risk of not immunizing but does not include information on the risks associated with immunizations. Held in Senate Health & Welfare for revisions.

- S1058** **TELEHEALTH ACCESS** – Requires insurers to cover telehealth in an “equivocal” manner as face-to-face healthcare services. Held in Senate for amendment.

- S1060** **CYTOMEGALOVIRUS INFORMATION** – Would require the Department of Health and Welfare to provide information on the risks of cytomegalovirus to the public, pregnant women and healthcare providers. Passed Senate. House H&W Committee.

- S1082** **COMMUNITY PRIMARY CARE PROGRAM** – Would cover the initial \$600 for primary care physician visits, lab, drugs, and health coaching for specified chronic illness management for 15,000 adults in the coverage gap. Senate Health & Welfare.

- S1090** **HEALTH CARE ADVANCED DIRECTIVES** – Clarifies the rights of developmentally disabled to consent to their own healthcare without a guardian’s consent, including the ability to revise or withdraw advanced directives. Clarifies presumed consent to resuscitate. Held in Senate for amendment.

Call to Action

Capitol Event: "A Plan Not a Delay" Procession through Statehouse

This is an event organized by Close the Gap Idaho



Thursday, March 9, 2017

12:30-1:30pm

First Floor Rotunda, Idaho State Capitol

Please Wear White

3/9/17 Procession details: The event will begin on the 1st Floor Rotunda at 12:30pm with several physicians speaking about the gap crisis and the importance of comprehensive health coverage. After their short speeches, we will gather in groups and walk in procession up the stairs and around the various rotundas. Our plan is to pack the Capitol and show legislators just how important access to healthcare is to the public. Please plan to **WEAR WHITE**

As you hear of issues or have question about the legislature, please e-mail mcgraneconsulting@gmail.com.