

Idaho Academy of Family Physicians 2018 Legislative Report Week 10 March 12 – March 16

Health Care rally at the Capitol this week. On Thursday a group of about 150 residents, physicians, and others in favor of addressing the health care coverage gap rallied at the Capitol to urge action on the "Idaho Health Care Plan" proposal that still has not been voted on by the House of Representatives. Spokesman-Review coverage of the event is here: <http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/boise/2018/mar/15/health-care-advocates-rally-capitol-stalled-health-care-bill/>

UPDATES on previous legislation:

Graduate Medical Education Ten-Year Plan: – JFAC Action:

Update: JFAC approved an increase in Residency funding of an additional \$2 million for next year – to a total of \$19 million. The increase is less than the \$5.2 million requested in the ten-year plan, but more than the Governor's recommendation of only \$1 million increase. This appropriations bill must still pass the legislature.

The budget allows for additional residency slots, including expansion of current residency programs and to create the foundation for residency training programs at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center and at Bingham Memorial Hospital.

HB 472: Rural Physician Incentive Program (RPIP) matching funds

UPDATE: This bill passed the Legislature and was delivered to the Governor on Wednesday March 14. On that same day JFAC appropriated \$640,000 of a state match to go into the program.

The bill would allow for the state to provide a financial match to the RPIP program in an amount yet to be determined, subject to an appropriation by the Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee.

HB 465: Medicaid Dental Care

UPDATE: This bill passed the Senate on Monday the 12th and is now on to the Governor. JFAC on March 14th appropriated \$1.1 million of state funds and gave authority to spend additional \$2.7 of federal dollars to meet the costs of the bill.

This bill would restore preventative dental care services for a certain population of Medicaid recipients. This program was cut during the recessionary years and her goal is to reinstate it. The expected cost for the program is \$1.2 million.

HB 513: Sales and Use Tax Exemption for free clinics

UPDATE: This bill has passed the legislature and was delivered to the Governor on March 14.

HB 494: Immunization Notices – Signatures Required

UPDATE: Still awaiting action by the Senate Health and Welfare Committee and is unlikely to advance. It has already passed the House.

This legislation is written so that for every immunization given, the provider and the patient or guardian must sign an acknowledgment of receipt of the required immunization notices. **This bill would add additional administrative burdens on physician office staff.**

HB 505: Physical Therapist Dry Needling

UPDATE: This bill passed the Senate on March 12 on a 33-2 vote. Now is on to the Governor for his signature.

HB 563: Plan First Idaho

UPDATE: This bill has been held on the House floor until March 21.

This purpose of this bill is to provide family planning services and supplies to Idaho Women ages 19-44 with a family income at or below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and are otherwise ineligible for Medicare, Medicaid, or health insurance that covers family planning services.

HB 638: Abortion Complications Reporting Act (formerly HB 571)

UPDATE: This bill passed the Senate on March 14 on a 21-14 vote, and Is now on to the Governor.

This bill requires the reporting of complications arising from abortion procedure to be reported to the Department of Health and Welfare. And annual statistical reports to be made public and reported to the legislature.

HB 448: Provides Exemption from Obscenity Laws for Breastfeeding

UPDATE: This bill unanimously passed the Senate on March 12 and is to the Governor.

HB 634: Suicide Prevention Programs in Schools

UPDATE: This bill unanimously passed the Senate on March 15 and is to the Governor.

Thank you to all of those who contacted their legislator regarding this legislation.

HB 657: Felony Battery on Healthcare Providers (formerly HB570)

UPDATE: This bill is awaiting a hearing in House Judiciary and Rules Committee and is unlikely to advance.

SB 1311: Direct Primary Care Pilot Program

UPDATE: This bill passed the Senate unanimously and still awaits action by House Health and Welfare Committee and is unlikely to advance.

Senator Steven Thayne's proposal would allow three of Idaho's Health Districts to participate in a pilot program that provides Primary Care services to individuals for a period of ten months IF they also participate in financial literacy classes/programs.

Bills that have reached final disposition:

SB 1311: Direct Primary Care Pilot Program

UPDATE: After sitting on the House floor's agenda for two weeks, this bill was returned to the Health and Welfare Committee – presumably because there is not enough support to pass it out of the House. The common presumption is that there is no political path to dealing with this issue – for the fourth year in a row.

SB 1255: Tobacco Age of Possession Killed in Senate State Affairs Committee

UPDATE: After a few hours of debate the Senate State Affairs Committee voted 6-3 to Hold this bill in committee. The basic arguments against it ran along the lines of "if we can ask our 18-year-olds to go to war, should we limit their ability to purchase certain products?" This bill would change the age of purchase for tobacco products and electronic cigarettes from 18 – 21 years of age.

HB 495: Health Care Billing Equity Act HELD in House H & W Committee

UPDATE: This bill was held in Committee after much debate and opposition from health care groups. It is expected that the stakeholders shall get together over the interim to come with a solution.

Rep Luker's bill places strict controls on billing for patients who seek care for certain out of network services.

Bills signed into Law

HB 353: Immunity for Physician Volunteers

UPDATE: This bill was signed by the Governor on March 7 and will become effective July 1, 2018.

HB 451: Medical Residency Charitable Tax deduction

This bill was signed by the Governor on March 1.

Unemployment Insurance Tax reduction

UPDATE: Governor Otter signed this bill into law on January 31.

Anyone who pays unemployment insurance taxes will see a reduction in that tax beginning January 1, 2018. It is estimated to reduce employer's unemployment taxes approximately 30% over a three year period beginning in 2018.

If at any point you would like to have more detail on any of these items, beyond these short descriptions, we would be happy to provide those for you.

We will continue to track issues that directly affect IAFF.

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