

Idaho Academy of Family Physicians 2018 Legislative Report Week 9 March 5 – March 9

An interesting development regarding Governor Otter's Executive Order to sell long-term non-ACA-compliant health plans occurred Thursday in that the Trump Administration essentially declared that for Idaho to do so would be a violation of Federal law. The nuance here is that the Administration and CMS suggested short-term plans (of less than 12 months) might still be an option.

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.

The budget allows for additional residency slots, including expansion of current residency programs and lay the foundation for residency training programs at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center and at Bingham Memorial Hospital. [Here is a link to Betsy Russell's article in the Spokesman Review.](#)

PHYSICIAN MEET AND GREET LEGISLATORS - You are invited to attend a "Meet & Greet" and "Address to Legislators and the Media" with Idaho physicians on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at the Capitol in Boise. Please plan to join physicians on the Fourth Floor Rotunda of the Capitol at 11:30am for a presentation regarding access to healthcare in Idaho. Lunch will be provided for attendees.

UPDATES on previous legislation:

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

UPDATE: This bill passed the Senate on Friday and now heads to the Governor. A second, important element to this bill is whether, and how much money JFAC might put into the project.

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 is still awaiting action by the full Senate.

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 passed the Senate on Wednesday this week and now goes to the Governor.

HB 353: Immunity for Physician Volunteers

UPDATE: This bill was signed by the Governor on Wednesday this week.

HB 494: Immunization Notices – Signatures Required

UPDATE: Still awaiting action by the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. 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 Health and Welfare Committee on Tuesday this week and now awaits action by the full Senate.

HB 563: Plan First Idaho

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

The 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 is on next Monday's agenda in Senate State Affairs Committee.

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 passed the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee on Tuesday this week and awaits action by the full Senate.

HB 634: Suicide Prevention Programs in Schools

UPDATE: This bill passed the House unanimously on Monday and awaits action by the Senate Education Committee

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

UPDATE: This bill is still awaiting a hearing in House Judiciary and Rules Committee

SB 1311: Direct Primary Care Pilot Program

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

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:

HB 464: Dual Waiver "Idaho Health Care Plan" may be dead for the year.

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.

HB 625: Tax on Opioids

This bill was killed in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee on Friday, March 2.

This bill is designed to fund and provide services to prevent and treat opioid addiction in Idaho.

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?"

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 451: Medical Residency Charitable Tax deduction

This bill was signed by the Governor on March 1.

Rep. Mat Erpelding introduced this bill that would provide an income tax credit for charitable contributions made to accredited Idaho-based medical residency programs.

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 IAFP.

Ken Burgess
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