

Idaho Academy of Family Physicians

2017 Legislative Update - Week 3

The Week Ending January 27, 2017

Ken Burgess, Veritas Advisors, LLP – IAFP Legislative Advisor

WWAMI and Graduate Medical Education budget presentation

Joint Finance/Appropriations Committee (JFAC) Wednesday, January 25

As part of the University of Idaho's Budget presentation in JFAC, Dr. Mary Barinaga and Dr. Ted Epperly testified before the committee. Dr. Barinaga delivered a great overview of the value of WWAMI in Idaho including the return rates of WWAMI graduates to practice in Idaho (currently 52%). The FY2018 budget request for WWAMI is \$5.6 million (The Governor's budget request asks for \$5.4 million for WWAMI). Dr. Epperly did a good job of clearly and simply explaining the Medical education "pipeline" and explained that the medical school pipeline is fairly robust, but the chokepoint rests at the residency training level. He educated the committee on the residency programs that currently exists in Idaho and made a pitch for the additional \$2.4 million to begin the planned Nampa residency program. Chet Herbst of the State Board of Education did an overview of the University to Utah medical programs, and Dr. Scott Smith helped the committee understand the function and value of the Boise Internal Medicine Program at the VA.

Editorial note: Drs. Barinaga, Epperley, Smith and Mr. Herbst all did a very good job, but it is important to remember that the education of Legislators is a never-ending process and our physicians should take every opportunity to reach out to their legislators to help them understand medical education. They will never, of course, understand it as well as we do, but there is value in making yourself a resource to your local legislators for those critical times when they need to seek out someone they trust for advice.

Joint Health and Welfare Committees Public Hearing

Friday, January 27, 2017

The joint Health and Welfare public hearing was host to a wide array of issues raised by hundreds of people. The main themes the public seemed to convey were addressing the Medicaid gap and the failing non-emergency medical transportation services provided through VEYO. The most immediately pressing concern for IAFP is the gap population. While easily 50% of the attendees were testifying for Medicaid expansion in some form, the presenters were admittedly short on details in regards to how this would or should be accomplished.

Other pressing matters from the public included immunizations. A number of vocal presenters were opposed to vaccines on the basis of the negative effects they have had on their own relatives. However, an equally vocal group of presenters focused on the parental filing for vaccine exemptions with schools. There were a number of presenters that felt they were required

to fill out too much information on these forms. More information on this issue included a presentation on the need for an education push on the CMV virus, which you know is a very dangerous virus that can cause many disabilities for children. People need to be made aware of its existence, potency, and means of prevention.

Legislation of interest:

Several Pharmacy-related bills introduced last week have advanced through the legislative process:

H004 to add the prescribing of tobacco cessation products to the practice of pharmacy passed out of the House Health and Welfare Committee and is now on the calendar to be debated by the full House. It will likely be taken up in the House sometime next week.

H005 to enhance the use of the Prescription Monitoring Program for controlled substances and allow greater access to the database by pharmacists. This bill is also now on the calendar to be debated by the full House next week.

New Legislation of Interest:

H039 “Value-based” payments. This bill was introduced on Tuesday and is to be heard in the House Health and Welfare Committee, possibly next week. It directs the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to pursue a Value-based payment system for provider-based managed care in the Medicaid program.

On the schedule:

The Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) has scheduled their “Health and Human Services Week” for January 30 – February 3. This is the week in which the Health and human services agencies make their budget requests and presentations to the budget committee. We will cover this closely and provide some detail on those hearings.

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.