



 Image result for idaho caregivers alliance

## Week 5

*February 11, 2018*

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Greetings members of the Idaho Public Health Association (IPHA) and Idaho Family Caregiver Alliance (ICA) and welcome to the 2018 Idaho Legislative Session. My name is Pragna Naidoo and I am the IPHA/ICA legislative intern. My goal is to provide you with meaningful weekly updates, legislative summaries, and other resource materials. Please contact me if you have questions or comments or ideas on items for the Update, [pragnanaidoo.policyintern@gmail.com](mailto:pragnanaidoo.policyintern@gmail.com).

### **Bill Highlight: Tobacco 21**

#### *Key Message*

The advocacy group Tobacco 21 has returned to the Statehouse this year in support of a bill designed to raise Idaho's smoking age from 18 to 21. The group introduced legislation last year, but the bill failed to make it out of committee. Senate Bill (SB1255) is scheduled for a hearing in Senate State Affairs Committee on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 8 AM. The coalition plans to deliver a concrete message based on four cornerstones of addiction & health, costs, societal impact, and generational components.

Regarding addiction and health, each year 700 Idaho youth become new regular daily smokers, 1/3 of whom will die prematurely due to this addiction. Cigarettes today are engineered to addict, being the only legal consumer product that, when used as intended, will kill half of all long – term users. In Idaho, healthcare costs caused by tobacco amount to \$508 million per year. With this bill, Idaho leaders have the opportunity to decrease the burden of tobacco–related illness and healthcare costs while improving the health of young Idahoans.

The social construct involved demonstrates that tobacco is bad for military preparedness. The U.S. Military recognizes the negative impact tobacco has on troop readiness and soldier's health and has actively taken steps to reduce tobacco use. In fact, over 60% of Idahoans

support raising the legal sale age for tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. Finally, some generational key points demonstrate that Idaho teens and young adults are tired of being targets of Big Tobacco. About 30,000 Idaho youth under age 18 will die prematurely if we continue on the current course of action. By passing this bill to raise the age to 21, will be a step closer to keeping tobacco out of high schools, where younger teens can obtain tobacco products from 18-year-olds.

Tobacco 21 urges anyone, particularly those who know their State Senators, to call or visit them directly before Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> to advocate for this cause. If you are more comfortable sending a message, the coalition provides a [streamlined advocacy engagement tool](#) where you can enter your name & address, along with a personalized message. Now is the time to make your voice heard in the Idaho Senate!

## **Health and Welfare Corner**

### *Spotlight on Hospitals and Family Caregivers*

- The Patient Caregiver Support Act, SB1262, was scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee on Thursday, Feb. 8 but was held in committee. This bill would require hospitals to provide help to unpaid family caregivers when their loved one is admitted and discharged by doing three things:
- Upon admission into a hospital and prior to discharge, a patient will be asked if she/he wants to designate a caregiver's name to be included in their patient record
- At the time of discharge, the hospital will notify (or attempt to notify) the designated caregiver regarding the discharge or transfer to another facility; and
- Before discharge, the hospital will provide instructions for medical tasks – such as medication management, injections, wound care, and transfers – that the family caregiver will need to do at home.

The Idaho Caregiver Alliance has taken a position in support of the bill, modifying its original position to ensure that employees of state agencies who participate in the Alliance were not included in this advocacy action. Some caregivers have expressed support for the legislation as have Disability Rights Idaho and the State Independent Living Council; the Idaho Commission on Aging is maintaining a neutral position, and the Idaho Hospital Association is opposed, saying these mandates are not necessary and that they would prefer a collaborative approach. Chairman Lee Heider is working with AARP and the Hospital Association to resolve differences and, if possible, make changes to the bill that both organizations could support. Access full bill text [here](#).

### *Spotlight on Dental Coverage to Medicaid Patients*

The House Health & Welfare Committee voted 8 – 4 in favor of bipartisan legislature to restore non – emergency dental coverage to Medicaid patients who lost such in 2011 cutbacks. Following the cuts in 2011, coverage was restored two years later to both children and people with major disabilities. However, it was not restored to others on Medicaid, especially those who potentially suffer from mental health issues. Due to this, many patients are only covered for emergency extractions and not all around dental care; this has led to a rapid increase in major infections and hospitalizations. Opposition stems from the concern over where the funding is coming from. “My concern is that it's \$4.3 million, which is state and federal tax money, and it's still our taxpayer money,” a sentiment shared by Rep. Megan Blanksma, R – Hammett. The bill now moves on to the full House. For deeper insight, access the bill [here](#) and follow in the tracker below.

## **The Idaho Health Care Plan**

The hearing on [H0464](#), the Idaho Health Care Plan, occurred this past Wednesday in the House Health & Welfare Committee, nearly fully supported. The Idaho Freedom foundation remained opposed on account of their belief that the bill serves to expand Medicaid. Idaho Medical Association, Blue Cross of Idaho, health care advocacy groups, and private citizens came together to share stories regarding what it is like to fall into Idaho's health coverage gap.

The House Health & Welfare Committee voted 7 – 5 in favor of HB464, sending it to full House with recommendation that it “do pass.” To glean insight into the specifics of the testimony, see this [article](#).

## Advocacy Days

February 22: Idaho Alzheimer’s Association Advocacy Day, details [here](#)

## To Watch

[S1281](#), sponsored by Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb, will require health benefit plans, issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2019, to provide reimbursement for a 12-month supply of contraceptives. Currently, many insurance plans reimburse for only a one-to-three month supply of contraception. Buckner-Webb purposes that providing access to a year’s supply will particularly help women in rural areas where access to such is limited. There are already eleven states with similar laws in place. The bill was introduced for printing in Health and Welfare but was sent to the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee for a full hearing.

## National Public Health

### *Spotlight on Trust for America’s Health (TFAH)*

The House Appropriations Committee has proposed long-term funding cuts to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The cumulative cut would amount to \$2.85 billion over the next decade. What is being called the “Continuing Resolution,” would drastically hamper our nation’s ability to control outbreaks, address the opioid epidemic, and keep that nation health and secure overall. The severity of this past flu season illustrates the importance of the role the CDC has played in our public health infrastructure. President and CEO of TFAH, argues that we need to “invest in the continuum of chronic and infectious disease prevention, detection and mitigation.” For deeper insight surrounding this topic, see [here](#).

## IPHA / ICA Bill Tracker

If there are specific Bills or Rules that you would like to be tracked, please reach out. For full bill text and more information regarding bills this session, please go to the [Idaho Legislature Bill Center](#)

Bill No	Description	Last Action
<a href="#">H0336</a>	Medicaid, nursing facilities	02/09/2018 House - Passed: Ayes 68 Nays 0 Abs/Excd 2, title approved, to Senate
<a href="#">H0337</a>	Behavioral health, council, boards	02/06/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0338</a>	Health care, insurance, assistance	01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0339</a>	Pharmacy, drug substitutions	02/01/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0340</a>	Controlled substances	02/01/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0341</a>	Tobacco, retailers fee	01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health &

		Welfare
<a href="#">H0342</a>	Hospitalization, mentally ill	01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0343</a>	Dentistry, dental specialists	02/01/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0344</a>	Dental hygienists, access settings	02/01/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0345</a>	Dentistry, convictions	02/01/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0346</a>	Board of dentistry, compensation	02/01/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0347</a>	Ombudsman for elderly, reporting	02/06/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0348</a>	Board of acupuncture, honorarium	02/01/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Commerce & Human Resources
<a href="#">H0349</a>	Occupational therapists	02/01/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Commerce & Human Resources
<a href="#">H0350</a>	Counselors and therapists	02/01/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Commerce & Human Resources
<a href="#">H0351</a>	Pharmacy, licensing and registration	02/01/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0352</a>	Occupational licensing, physicians	02/09/2018 Senate - Reported out of Committee with Do Pass Recommendation; Filed for second reading
<a href="#">H0353</a>	Volunteer health care providers	01/30/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0354</a>	Opioid antagonists, filing	02/08/2018 Senate - Read second time; filed for Third Reading
<a href="#">H0393</a>	Insurance, immunization board	02/06/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0398</a>	Mental health, conversion therapy	01/25/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Ways & Means
<a href="#">H0409</a>	Nursing home administrators	02/09/2018 House - Passed: Ayes 67 Nays 1 Abs/Excd 2, title approved, to Senate
<a href="#">H0410</a>	Cannabidiol oil	01/26/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0414</a>	Sex education	01/26/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Education
<a href="#">H0431</a>	Medical directors, classification	02/09/2018 House - Reported out of Committee with Do Pass Recommendation, Filed for Second Reading
<a href="#">H0448</a>	Breastfeeding exempt, obscenity	01/31/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Judiciary, Rules & Administration
<a href="#">H0464</a>	Health care, waiver	02/09/2018 House - Reported out of Committee with Do Pass Recommendation, Filed for Second Reading

<a href="#">H0465</a>	Medicaid, dental services	02/09/2018 House - Read second time; Filed for Third Reading
<a href="#">H0475</a>	Approp, H&W mental hlth, Chg	02/07/2018 House - U.C. to hold place on third reading calendar until Monday, February 12, 2018
<a href="#">H0494</a>	Immunizations, notification	02/06/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0495</a>	Health care billing equity act	02/06/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0500</a>	Public records, child abuse	02/07/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Judiciary, Rules & Administration
<a href="#">H0505</a>	Physical therapy, dry needling	02/09/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
<a href="#">H0513</a>	Sales tax, free/charitable clinics	02/09/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Revenue & Taxation
<a href="#">HCR036</a>	Childhood cancer, DIPG	02/01/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
<a href="#">HCR038</a>	Eating disorders awareness week	02/06/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
<a href="#">HCR041</a>	Group insurance committee	02/09/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
<a href="#">S1219</a>	Health insurance, waiver	02/08/2018 Senate - Read second time; filed for Third Reading
<a href="#">S1223</a>	Insurance, living donors	01/22/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Commerce & Human Resources
<a href="#">S1224</a>	Medicaid expansion	01/22/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Health & Welfare
<a href="#">S1227</a>	Immunizations, exemptions	01/25/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Health & Welfare
<a href="#">S1243</a>	Abortion, posting information	01/30/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to State Affairs
<a href="#">S1255</a>	Tobacco, age of possession	02/01/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to State Affairs
<a href="#">S1262</a>	Patient caregiver support act	02/02/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Health & Welfare
<a href="#">S1271</a>	Health care, confidentiality	02/07/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Health & Welfare
<a href="#">S1273</a>	Health benefit plans, cancer meds	02/08/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Commerce & Human Resources
<a href="#">S1281</a>	Insurance, contraceptives	02/09/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Commerce & Human Resources
<a href="#">S1288</a>	Out-of-state insurers	02/09/2018 Senate - Introduced; read first time; referred to JR for Printing
<a href="#">S1289</a>	Pharmacy benefit managers	02/09/2018 Senate - Introduced; read first time; referred to JR for Printing

<a href="#">S1290</a>	Firefighters, medical exams	02/09/2018 Senate - Introduced; read first time; referred to JR for Printing
<a href="#">S1296</a>	Mental disabilities	02/09/2018 Senate - Introduced; read first time; referred to JR for Printing
<a href="#">SCR129</a>	Self-sufficient families	02/09/2018 Senate - Adopted: Voice Vote; title approved; to House
<a href="#">SCR131</a>	Cytomegalovirus awareness month	02/09/2018 Senate - Introduced; read first time; referred to JR for Printing
<a href="#">H0336</a>	Medicaid, nursing facilities	02/09/2018 House - Passed: Ayes 68 Nays 0 Abs/Excd 2, title approved, to Senate