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Legislative Update
March 29, 2013

Idaho Public Health Association

About IPHA

Established in 1939, the Idaho Public Health Association (IPHA) is the oldest nonprofit organization representing public, private and consumer health interests in Idaho. IPHA provides a forum for the expression and dissemination of current public health issues, trends and technologies.

In 2011, IPHA was honored as the "Outstanding State Affiliate of the Year" by the American Public Health Association.

www.idahopublichealth.org

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Ways to Get Involved with IPHA

Become a Member of IPHA
Show your support for public health in Idaho by joining IPHA. Membership is $40/year; $10/year for students. More info here.

Join one of IPHA's Standing Committees

Submit an idea for our Public Health Spotlight Series

Donate to IPHA - *make a tax-deductible contribtution*

National Public Health Week Events, April 1-7

National Public Health Week is coming up **April 1-7**. IPHA is co-hosting several events related to this year's theme: "Public Health is ROI: Saves Lives, Saves Money."

- Screenings in Boise and Pocatello of the critically-acclaimed film, "Escape Fire: The Fight to Rescue American Healthcare" followed by Q&A session
  - **Boise screening**: **Monday, April 1, 7 p.m.**, Boise State University, Multipurpose Classroom Building, Room 106 (campus map here)
  - **Pocatello screening**: **Thursday, April 4, 7 p.m.,** Idaho State University, Salmon Room in Pond Student Union Building
- Panel Discussion: "Public Health is ROI: Current Issues in Idaho"
  - **Thursday, April 4, 7 p.m**., Boise State University, Mutiple Purpose Classroom Building, Room 106
  - Panelists:
    - Denise Chuckovich, Deputy Director for Medicaid, Idaho Dept. of Health & Welfare
    - Representative Sue Chew, Idaho State Legislature
    - Dr. Louis Schlickman, Idaho Health Care for All

All events are free and open to anyone. IPHA thanks BSU's Department of Community and Environmental Health, ISU's Public Health Students Association, and Idaho Health Care for All for partnering to host these events.

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Vanessa Potoski, IPHA Policy Intern

Because the public school budget bill was not passed, this legislative session did not conclude on Friday as was

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projected.

This Update highlights:

- the failure of the Assault & Battery of Health Care Workers bill
- the Medicaid Expansion bill and how it stalled
- actions taken on previously introduced bills

H0292, the Assault & Battery of Health Care Workers Bill, Fails

H0292, the bill which would have made it a felony to physically assault health care workers, failed after the lieutenant governor broke the tie vote. Read about the Senate hearing here and a Spokesman-Review article here.

Medicaid Expansion Stalls

It appears that Medicaid expansion will not be considered this session. Below are links to information and opinions on the bill.

- Read Betsy Russell's Mar 26 blog, her Spokesman Review article, and Dan Popkey's blog.
- Read a State-Impact Idaho article about a possible **third option** for Medicaid expansion here
- and a Times-News article on how the lack of consideration may be connected to **next year's** state **elections** here.
- Governor Otter received a **letter** from his **workgroup** on Medicaid expansion. The group reconvened on the 18th and wanted to inform the governor of their updated recommendations regarding expansion. Read it here.
- Michael Ferguson's op-ed piece describing the positive economic impacts of Medicaid expansion is here.
- The **Idaho Freedom Foundation**'s press release by Wayne Hoffman describing why Medicaid expansion is a "bad choice" is here.
- The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation website has a link to an **infographic** on Medicaid expansion here.

Newly Introduced Legislation

- A new **abortion bill, S1193,** was introduced on Tuesday; but it has already stalled and probably won't be addressed this session.
  See Betsy Russell's Mar 26 blog here.

Actions on Previously Introduced Legislation

These bills were passed by the Senate this week:

- H0098 - Medical Indigency
- H0291- Hospitalization of mentally ill minors
- S1176 - CAT appropriations

These bills were passed by the House and Senate:

- H0178 - Immunization board

These bills were signed into law:

- H0211 - Board of Medicine/Dept. of Labor
- H0248 - Health insurance exchange
- S1063 - Medical consent/natural death act
- S1100 - Health care sharing ministries
- S1139 - Appropriations for public health districts
- S1140 - Medical boards appropriations
- S1142 - Appropriations for Id. Comm. for the Blind

These bills were sent to the governor:

- H0239 - Pharmacists/compounded drugs
- H0283 - Child welfare & developmentally disabled...
- H0284 - Office of Drug Policy appropriations
- H0285 - Commission on Aging appropriations
- H0293 - Dept of Health & Welfare appropriations
- S1059 - State prisons/venereal disease
- S1072 - Organ donation contribution fund
- S1116 - Organ donation notification
- S1135 - Medical discipline
- S1136 - Synthetic drug listing

These resolutions were sent to the Secretary of State:

- HCR030 - Pancreatic cancer awareness
- SCR112 - Marijuana use [Read more in Betsy Russell's Mar 27 blog here]

IPHA's "Bill Tracker"

This Update provides summaries of only new bills and bills where some action was taken (hearings, votes, etc.). Throughout the Legislative Session, summaries of all legislation of interest will be available in the "Bill Tracker" updated each week and available here on IPHA's website.

About the Policy Intern

During the coming months, IPHA's Policy Intern, ***Vanessa Potoski****, will be monitoring public health related issues that arise during the 2013 Legislative Session. Ms. Potoski holds a degree in biology and is currently a student in Boise State University's School of Nursing. She brings a wealth of experience in education and project management in a state agency to the position. If you have questions or if there are issues that you would like her to follow this session, she can be contacted at potoskiv@gmail.com.*

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