



 Image result for idaho caregivers alliance

Week 3

January 28, 2018

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.

Bill Highlight: The Idaho Health Care Plan

Brief Background

The plan calls for Idaho to seek two waivers from the federal government. Both waivers are designed to lower the cost of health insurance in Idaho and improve access. It would potentially yield opportunity to purchase subsidized insurance plans through the state insurance exchange for 35,000 Idahoans who fall into the coverage gap. For further information, please see the [Idaho Health Care Plan Fact Sheet](#), courtesy of *Close the Gap Idaho*.

Informational Hearing

The House Health and Welfare Committee received an hour long presentation last Wednesday on the benefits of the waivers outlined above (access [PowerPoint](#)). In order to be enacted, the plan will require approval from both the Legislature and the federal government. The cost to state taxpayers is expected to be \$29 million, and the program would cost \$100 million including federal funds. It will result in an estimated 2,500 - 3,500 people with very high - cost conditions being added to Medicaid rolls.

Idaho may be the first state to take formal steps without prior federal authorization for creating policies that do not comply with "Obamacare Law." The Idaho plan would make it possible for insurance companies to offer cheaper plans that are more attractive to people who do not

benefit from federal premium subsidies offered under the Affordable Care Act. All the while, the strongest opposition to the plan still stems from the Idaho Freedom Foundation who term the plan "a bailout for insurance companies."

For deeper insight into action surrounding this bill, visit Betsy Z Russell's article in the Spokesman-Review [here](#).

A **public hearing** on the Idaho Health Care Plan, including the dual waiver applications, and the plan's impact on health care coverage for Idahoans will be held on Wednesday, February 7, at 8 a.m. in the Lincoln Auditorium on the Garden Level of the Capitol.

Health and Welfare Corner

Spotlight on Immunization Waivers

Legislation allowing parents to opt out of vaccinating their children with a simple letter rather than using a state form was narrowly agreed upon by an Idaho Senate Panel. Sen. Dan Foreman, R - Moscow, argues his bill clarifies state law and does not discourage parents from using existing state or school forms to opt out of vaccines. Senate Health and Welfare Committee members lengthily debated before settling on a 5 - 4 vote to send the bill to full hearing. Access associated [audio/video](#) here for full detail and intent.

Spotlight on Taxable Wage Rates

The Senate voted unanimously to pass HB 335 (see bill tracker below) last Tuesday. The bill will lower the unemployment insurance tax and save Idaho employers \$115 million over the next three years, without any impact on the state general fund. It was proposed last year with wide support, but was struck down in the debate cross - fire between the House and Senate over tax cuts. Sen. Dan Johnson, R - Lewiston, stated that the "bill will result in substantial net tax savings to Idaho's covered employers." It now goes on to Gov. Butch Otter's desk to be signed into law. For further information on the bill, check out [HB 335](#).

Tobacco 21

Rexburg City Council passed the second reading of Tobacco ordinance. It will require one more reading to make the ordinance city law. Should the city approve the proposal, individuals under 21 will be unable to purchase cigarettes within city limits. The Mayor's Youth Advisory Board hopes that Madison County (just outside of Rexburg city limits) will soon follow suit. The group reported meeting with Madison County Commissioners and plans to do so again on Monday. Access the full story [here](#).

Tobacco 21 introduced legislation last year, but the bill failed to make it out of committee. This advocacy group will return to the Statehouse this year in support of a bill designed to raise Idaho's smoking age from 18 to 21. A "print hearing" on this proposed legislation is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31, at 8 AM in the Senate State Affairs Committee (Room WW55). No testimony will be allowed at this time. Assuming that it will be printed, watch for a bill number and opportunity for public comment in coming days.

Advocacy Days

January 29: ACS CAN (American Cancer Society), details [here](#)

February 1: American Heart & Stroke Association Day and Tobacco 21, Capitol. Tobacco 21 Idaho will be available for media interviews at 10:30 AM, first floor rotunda area.

February 8: AARP Idaho Lobby Day, details [here](#)

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

Rules, Rules, Rules

The Board of Dentistry has brought forward several rules including **Docket #19-0101-1703** which deals with telehealth for dental service coverage. Included in this rule is language that requires dentists who provide telehealth services to physically practice within seventy-five (75) miles of the patient's location. At hearing, AARP Idaho raised concerns that this would limit services to many of Idaho rural areas. While the Health and Welfare Committees were sympathetic to these concerns they supported the expansion that telehealth of dental practices provided and approved this pending rule. Access full appended rule changes to the docket at this [link](#).

The rules that would permit Certified Family Homes to accept hourly adult care residents (**Docket # 16-0319-1701, Section 180**) were approved in the House Health and Welfare Committee. These rules will be presented to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee on Thursday, Feb. 1 at 3:00 in Room WW54. The ICA is in support of these rules because they would provide additional options for respite for family caregivers. Access full appended rule changes to the docket at this [link](#).

The Senate and House Health and Welfare Committees approved **Docket # 16-0310-1707** as final with implementation on July 1, 2018. This docket, developed in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, abandons the use of an outdated and demeaning developmental disability services eligibility assessment tool (Scales of Independent Behavior-Revised or SIB-R) for a new assessment, the Supports Intensity Scale-Adults. This new tool is written in plain language, presented in a strength-based approach, and allows individuals to have direct input. This change is the result of years of negotiation and collaboration between Medicaid and disability advocates and is part of a lawsuit settlement agreement. Access full appended rule changes to the docket at this [link](#).

To Watch

Rep. Dorthy Moon, R - Stanley, successfully introduced a bill to legalize cannabidiol oil (CBD oil). It was introduced in the House Health and Welfare Committee last Thursday. As a non-psychoactive marijuana byproduct, CBD oil has proven successful in treating children who suffer from diseases such as intractable epilepsy. Associated legislation sets up a registration system under the State Board of Pharmacy providing possession rights to registered adults. See [here](#) for the excerpt and [H0410](#) to track.

Beyond State Borders

RAISE Law

Last week, *Beyond State Borders* touched on the call to action by 40 million family caregivers through the bipartisan RAISE (Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage) Family Caregiver Act. As of last week, the bill has been officially signed into law by President Trump. The law requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to form a family caregiving advisory council. This council will advise and work with the Secretary to develop a coordinated family caregiving strategy. RAISE received broad support from disability advocacy groups including the Arc, the Autism Society, The Autistics Self Advocacy Network, Easterseals and United Cerebral Palsy, among others. Access further details at this [link](#).

Government Shutdown

APHA recently released statements on Congress's decision to fund the government only until February 8th. The coalition proposes that short-term funding puts public health at risk. They believe that funding the federal government through continuing resolution is an inadequate

answer to the country's pressing public health needs. In addition, they deem it an unacceptable practice to create continual budget uncertainty. Check out APHA [News Release](#) for more statements from George C. Benjamin, MD, executive director, American Public Health Association.

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](#)

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| H0335 | Employment, taxable wage rates | 01/26/2018 House - Returned Signed by the President; Ordered Transmitted to Governor |
| H0336 | Medicaid, nursing facilities | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0337 | Behavioral health, council, boards | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0338 | Health care, insurance, assistance | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0339 | Pharmacy, drug substitutions | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0340 | Controlled substances | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0341 | Tobacco, retailers fee | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0342 | Hospitalization, mentally ill | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0343 | Dentistry, dental specialists | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0344 | Dental hygienists, access settings | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0345 | Dentistry, convictions | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0346 | Board of dentistry, compensation | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and |

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| | | Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0347 | Ombudsman for elderly, reporting | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0348 | Board of acupuncture, honorarium | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0349 | Occupational therapists | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0350 | Counselors and therapists | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0351 | Pharmacy, licensing and registration | 01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0352 | Occupational licensing, physicians | 01/26/2018 House - Read second time; Filed for Third Reading |
| H0353 | Volunteer health care providers | 01/26/2018 House - Read second time; Filed for Third Reading |
| H0354 | Opioid antagonists, filing | 01/26/2018 House - Read second time; Filed for Third Reading |
| H0410 | Cannabidiol oil | 01/26/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare |
| H0431 | Medical directors, classification | 01/26/2018 House - Introduced, read first time, referred to JRA for Printing |
| S1219 | Health insurance, waiver | 01/22/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Commerce & Human Resources |
| S1223 | Insurance, living donors | 01/22/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Commerce & Human Resources |
| S1224 | Medicaid expansion | 01/22/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Health & Welfare |
| S1227 | Immunizations, exemptions | 01/25/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Health & Welfare |

