



 *Image result for idaho caregivers alliance*

Week 6

February 18, 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: Tobacco 21 Bill

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) had a hearing in Senate State Affairs Committee on Wednesday, February 14th, at 8 AM.

“The bill will save thousands of lives and millions of health care costs into the future...tobacco use is the leading cost of preventable diseases and premature death in the U.S., and one of the largest drivers of health care costs,” claimed Corey Surber, Director of Advocacy for Trinity Health. She continued by saying that “cigarettes are the only legal consumer product that when used as intended will half of all long – term users.” There are already 5 states and 291 communities that have raised the smoking age to 21. In addition, Idaho polls demonstrated high support for raising the smoking age. Tobacco use is one of the most difficult addictions to break, and increasing the age at which cigarettes can be purchased will result in fewer young people initiating tobacco use and struggling to quit later in life.

Unfortunately, the Senate State Affairs Committee held the bill in committee, killing it for the session. Senators Brent Hill, Jeff Siddoway and Cherie Buckner-Webb voted against holding it. Much of the opposition to the bill came from the platform of ‘adulthood.’ Sen. Marv Hagedorn, R – Meridian stated that “our nation has decided that 18 is the year that our children become adults...to make all the choices and accept responsibilities.” There was also conversation around tackling peer pressure as an entry point for tobacco into youth circles. Opposing

members urge others to embrace these extraneous factors when calling for further action. For deeper insight surrounding the rise and fall of [SB1255](#), see this [article](#).

Health and Welfare Corner

Spotlight on Hospitals and Family Caregivers

SB1262, the Patient Caregiver Support Act, was held in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee by committee chairman and sponsor, Senator Lee Heider, on February 8. This bill which would have required hospitals to 1) ask a patient upon admission if s/he want to designate a caregiver in the patient record; 2) notify the caregiver when the patient was being discharged or transferred; and 3) provide instructions and training on medical tasks to the caregiver upon discharge. Senator Heider had hoped that AARP, the bill's sponsor, and the Idaho Hospital Association which was opposed, would be able to reach consensus on language that would allow the bill to move forward. We learned this week that SB1262 will not see further action this year.

Spotlight on Dental Coverage to Medicaid Patients

The Idaho House voted 36–32-2 in favor of [H0465](#), to restore non-emergency dental coverage to people who are on Idaho Medicaid's basic plan; the benefit was lost through 2011 budget cuts. This bill addresses the increasing number of major infections and hospitalizations that were results of this discrepancy in access to care. Rep. Fred Wood, R–Burley, stated that “The disasters that can occur from poor dental hygiene are very significant – meningitis in children and the list goes on and one...the savings will be real here...the health of this population will be significantly improved by restoring these benefits.” Despite the support, there are still those that oppose the bill, as indicated by the close vote. Most of the opposition stems directly from funding matters, and those that claim this is just another shot at Medicaid expansion. The bill now moves on to the Senate where it is in the Health and Welfare Committee.

Spotlight on Abortion Bill

The vote on [S1243](#) was held on the Third Reading Calendar in the Senate on Friday, 2/16. This bill requires that women seeking an abortion be provided with information about reversal of medication-induced abortions partway through treatment. In support of the bill, Julie Lynde of the Cornerstone Institution stated that “second chances are so rare; SB 1243 extends the hand of support to a woman wanting to take that second chance, if the protocol is successful, a life is saved.” Those who opposed the bill claimed that the bill is based on flawed science. Mistie Tolman, a lobbyist for Planned Parenthood claimed that “this reckless bill is bad medicine and a clear indication that legislators need to leave the practice of medicine to medical professionals.” The Senate State Affairs Committee voted along party lines to approve the bill.

Advocacy Days

February 21: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Advocacy Day, details [here](#)

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

February 26–27: National Association of Social Workers Education and Advocacy, details [here](#)

To Watch

The Idaho Health Care Plan

By unanimous consent, the House has agreed to move [H0464](#), the Idaho Health Care Plan, to the bottom of its Third Reading calendar, where is it scheduled for a vote on Monday, 2/19. If it passes the House, it must still pass the Senate before it reaches the Governor's desk. The plan calls for Idaho to seek three waivers from the federal government. All are designed to lower the cost of health insurance in Idaho and improve access. The bill originally called for two waivers but language was added requiring the Department of Health and Welfare to use a third waiver to pursue work requirements for able-bodied adults on Medicaid. The bill 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 [Idaho Health Care Plan Fact Sheet](#), courtesy of *Close the Gap Idaho*.

Primary Care Pilot Project

This week, Sen. Steven Thayne (Emmett) introduced **SB1311**. This bill would create a pilot program managed by health districts who choose to participate. Through the pilot, individuals must attend a financial literacy course or health coaching (provided by a qualified non-profit organization) in order to receive primary care for up to 10 months. The goal of the pilot is 1) to help those in poverty learn financial literacy or health practices that will benefit them long-term and 2) to provide access to primary care to those that may not have any access to health care. Only three health districts will participate in the program in the first year. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee on Monday, Feb. 19 at 3:00 p.m.

Other Health Insurance Changes

In response to an Executive Order by Governor Otter and Lt. Governor Brad Little, Blue Cross of Idaho is moving forward with offering 5 insurance plans that do not comply with the Affordable Care Act. These state-based “skinny” plans, being called “Freedom Blue Plans” could be available to the public this spring. Blue Cross CEO Charlene Maher said “This is about affordability and choice.” You can read Statesman reporter Audrey Dutton’s [full report here](#). Allowing the sale of these plans has come under criticism by U.S. Senators Patti Murray (Washington) and Ron Wyden (Oregon) who have requested proof from federal officials that the move is legal. But it was defended by Idaho Senator Mike Crapo who said that “Idaho is still providing Obamacare-compliant plans for anyone who wants to purchase them, but they’re allowing others to have options.”

National Public Health

Alzheimer’s and Dementia Corner

Massachusetts is making great strides in the public health realm through their newfound legislation establishing an Alzheimer’s Disease Advisory Council. In addition, the bill requires the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to conduct an assessment on existing state efforts and implement a state wide plan that addresses the disease. Currently, 300,000 Massachusetts residents act as caregivers to one or more of 120,000 residents that suffer from Alzheimer’s or related dementia. In 2017, the associated Medicaid costs totaled approximately \$1.55 billion. The legislation addresses these figures by also creating minimum – training standards for elder protective services social workers and establishing a continuing education requirement for medical professionals to improve the diagnosis, care, and treatment of the disease. Access the full story [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	Description	Last Action
H0335	Employment, taxable wage rates	01/31/2018 House - Reported Signed by Governor on January 31, 2018
H0336	Medicaid,	02/16/2018 Senate - Reported out of

	nursing facilities	Committee with Do Pass Recommendation; Filed for second reading
H0337	Behavioral health, council, boards	02/15/2018 Senate - Read second time; filed for Third Reading
H0338	Health care, insurance, assistance	01/17/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
H0339	Pharmacy, drug substitutions	02/15/2018 Senate - Read second time; filed for Third Reading
H0340	Controlled substances	02/15/2018 Senate - Read second time; filed for Third Reading
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	02/16/2018 Senate - Reported out of Committee with Do Pass Recommendation; Filed for second reading
H0344	Dental hygienists, access settings	02/16/2018 Senate - Reported out of Committee with Do Pass Recommendation; Filed for second reading
H0345	Dentistry, convictions	02/16/2018 Senate - Reported out of Committee with Do Pass Recommendation; Filed for second reading
H0346	Board of dentistry, compensation	02/16/2018 Senate - Reported out of Committee with Do Pass Recommendation; Filed for second reading
H0347	Ombudsman for elderly, reporting	02/16/2018 Senate - Read second time; filed for Third Reading
H0348	Board of acupuncture, honorarium	02/16/2018 Senate - Reported out of Committee with Do Pass Recommendation; Filed for second reading
H0349	Occupational therapists	02/16/2018 Senate - Reported out of Committee with Do Pass Recommendation; Filed for second reading

H0350	Counselors and therapists	02/16/2018 Senate - Reported out of Committee with Do Pass Recommendation; Filed for second reading
H0351	Pharmacy, licensing and registration	02/15/2018 Senate - Read second time; filed for Third Reading
H0352	Occupational licensing, physicians	02/12/2018 Senate - Read second time; filed for Third Reading
H0353	Volunteer health care providers	02/15/2018 Senate - Read second time; filed for Third Reading
H0354	Opioid antagonists, filing	02/16/2018 House - Returned Signed by the President; Ordered Transmitted to Governor
H0393	Insurance, immunization board	02/13/2018 Senate - Read second time; filed for Third Reading
H0398	Mental health, conversion therapy	01/25/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Ways & Means
H0409	Nursing home administrators	02/12/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Health & Welfare
H0410	Cannabidiol oil	01/26/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
H0414	Sex education	01/26/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Education
H0431	Medical directors, classification	02/15/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Commerce & Human Resources
H0448	Breastfeeding exempt, obscenity	01/31/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Judiciary, Rules & Administration
H0464	Health care, waiver	02/16/2018 House - U.C. to hold place on third reading calendar until Monday, February 19, 2018
H0465	Medicaid, dental services	02/13/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Health & Welfare
H0475	Approp, H&W mental hlth, Chg	02/15/2018 Senate - Read second time; filed for Third Reading

H0494	Immunizations, notification	02/06/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
H0495	Health care billing equity act	02/06/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
H0500	Public records, child abuse	02/07/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Judiciary, Rules & Administration
H0505	Physical therapy, dry needling	02/09/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
H0513	Sales tax, free/charitable clinics	02/16/2018 Senate - Introduced, read first time; referred to: Local Government & Taxation
H0546	Anatomical gifts, age of donation	02/13/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
H0548	Insurance, long-term care	02/13/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Business
H0562	Public health districts, trustees	02/14/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
H0563	Plan First Idaho	02/14/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
H0570	Battery, health care workers	02/14/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Judiciary, Rules & Administration
H0571	Abortion complications reporting	02/14/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to State Affairs
H0572	Family planning providers	02/14/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
H0577	Cannabidiol oil	02/14/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
H0579	Sex education	02/15/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Education
H0587	Tort claims, government liability	02/15/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Judiciary, Rules & Administration
HCR036	Childhood cancer, DIPG	02/01/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare

HCR038	Eating disorders awareness week	02/16/2018 House - Adopted Voice Vote, title approved, to Senate
HCR041	Group insurance committee	02/16/2018 House - Reported out of Committee with Do Pass Recommendation, Filed for Second Reading
HCR043	Organ donation, awareness	02/13/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to State Affairs
HCR045	Hearing devices	02/14/2018 House - Reported Printed and Referred to Health & Welfare
S1219	Health insurance, waiver	02/13/2018 House - Read First Time, Referred to Business
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
S1243	Abortion, posting information	02/16/2018 Senate - Retained on calendar
S1248	Organ donation, notification	02/15/2018 Senate - Read second time as amended, filed for Third reading
S1249	Education, organ donation	02/13/2018 House - Read First Time, Referred to Health & Welfare
S1250	State employees, organ donation	02/13/2018 House - Read First Time, Referred to Health & Welfare
S1255	Tobacco, age of possession	02/01/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to State Affairs
S1262	Patient caregiver support act	02/02/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Health & Welfare
S1271	Health care, confidentiality	02/16/2018 Senate - Read second time; filed for Third Reading
S1273	Health benefit	02/08/2018 Senate - Reported Printed;

	plans, cancer meds	referred to Commerce & Human Resources
S1281	Insurance, contraceptives	02/09/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Commerce & Human Resources
S1288	Out-of-state insurers	02/12/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Commerce & Human Resources
S1289	Pharmacy benefit managers	02/12/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Commerce & Human Resources
S1290	Firefighters, medical exams	02/12/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Commerce & Human Resources
S1296	Mental disabilities	02/12/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Health & Welfare
S1302	Insurance, organ donation	02/13/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Commerce & Human Resources
S1311	Direct primary care pilot	02/13/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to Health & Welfare
SCR129	Self-sufficient families	02/12/2018 House - Read First Time, Referred to Health & Welfare
SCR131	Cytomegalovirus awareness month	02/14/2018 House - Read First Time, Referred to Health & Welfare
SCR135	EMS, volunteers	02/13/2018 Senate - Reported Printed; referred to 10th order; held one legislative day