



Legislative Update: Week 9

Good evening, Public Health Champions!

My name is Maija Baehr and I am your 2019 Legislative Session intern.

Throughout the session, I'll be writing a weekly newsletter for you through the IPHA and ICA. My goal with is to provide enough detail that you have high-level talking points for any legislative activity related to public health, while also providing appropriate links and supplemental information so you can quickly and easily access further info for those bills that you're particularly interested in.

Now, into the week 9 recap, we go!

Spring Forward!

Go adjust your clocks if you haven't already. Lots of things are happening at the Capitol at 8:00 am tomorrow!

Speaking of...

I'm interrupting our currently scheduled programming to hear a special presentation from District 18 Senator Janie Ward-Engelking (D., Boise). From her newsletter this week:



"On Monday, March 11th at 8:00 am, the Senate State Affairs Committee will be holding a hearing for SB 1159, the Revenge on Voters Act. The public hearing will be held in room WW55 on the garden level of the Capitol. The legislation would restrict voters from getting an initiative on the ballot.

Currently, Idaho requires that petitioners collect signatures from 6% of Idaho's registered voters from 18 of Idaho's 35 legislative districts in 18 months.

This legislation would change those requirements for petitioners to collect signatures from 10% of Idaho's registered voters from 32 of Idaho's 35 legislative districts within 6 months. Voters would have to collect signatures 5 TIMES faster than current law.

If this bill becomes law it would prevent citizens from bringing propositions to the ballot. It would cost millions to collect the necessary signatures in the required time period. Only

wealthy individuals and corporations would have a say in Idaho law.

The legislation is clearly retaliation for getting Medicaid Expansion on the ballot, which passed with 61% of the vote. A group of lawmakers want to make sure nothing like Medicaid Expansion ever makes it on the ballot again.

If you have any concerns about this bill, you can voice them directly to the committee on Monday at 8:00 am. Public testimony is welcome and necessary to stop this legislation."

Intent of SB 1159. In fairness to the sponsors of this legislation, Senator C. Scott Grow (R., Eagle) and Representatives Sage Dixon (R., Ponderay) and Jason Monks (R., Nampa), here is the rationale for this bill (from the Statement of Purpose and the Fiscal Note):

"The purpose of SB1159 is to increase voter involvement in the voter initiative/referendum process and to require additional explanatory information during the process and on the ballot. Proponents of initiatives/referendums will be required to secure signatures from 10% of registered voters in 32 (instead of the current 18) of Idaho's 35 legislative districts. Also, initiatives/referendums will be asked to follow a single subject rule, include a fiscal impact statement and propose a funding source. The effective date would be no sooner than July 1st following the vote on the ballot."

FISCAL NOTE: This bill would require signatures to be verified by County Clerks for 14 additional districts. The total signatures to be verified in each district would increase from 6% to 10% of registered voters. This will require these additional districts to spend additional time to verify them. If current staff cannot handle the workload, temporary help may need to be hired.

So... you decide.

Reject 249

As Twitter user James Dawson [said](#), 49.5 people testified against HB 249, Rep. John Vander Woude's (R., Nampa) bill on Medicaid Expansion, on Friday in the Lincoln Auditorium, only 1.5 in support. High-fives all around! House Health & Welfare isn't meeting tomorrow but it could definitely come up on the committee agenda this week. Close the Gap took the task of helping visualize the 74% of Idahoans who want an unmodified implementation of Medicaid expansion.

What would HB 249 do?

1. Allow for a waiver to shorten retroactive Medicaid eligibility period from the current 90 days to 30 days. (Way too short.)
2. Instructs Department of Health & Welfare (with the Department of Insurance) to seek a waiver for people between 100-138% of federal poverty level (FPL) to choose between (1) Insurance through the exchange or 2) Medicaid. It's uncertain if Medicaid will pay the cost of the insurance premiums.

3. Require employment training like that of SNAP recipients. It would exempt parents of children under 18 (instead of age 6 like SNAP) but may not exempt other caregivers like those caring for elderly parents or other family members.
 4. Requires DHW to seek a waiver for coverage of services in IMDs (free standing psych hospitals) for short term inpatient services; crisis centers are not covered as they are not inpatient.
 5. Renders the law null and void if the ACA is found unconstitutional
 6. Voids the law if the federal participation drops to less than 90%; effective March 1 of the year following the federal action
 7. Requires a review of Medicaid expansion to decide whether to termin



Again. You decide.

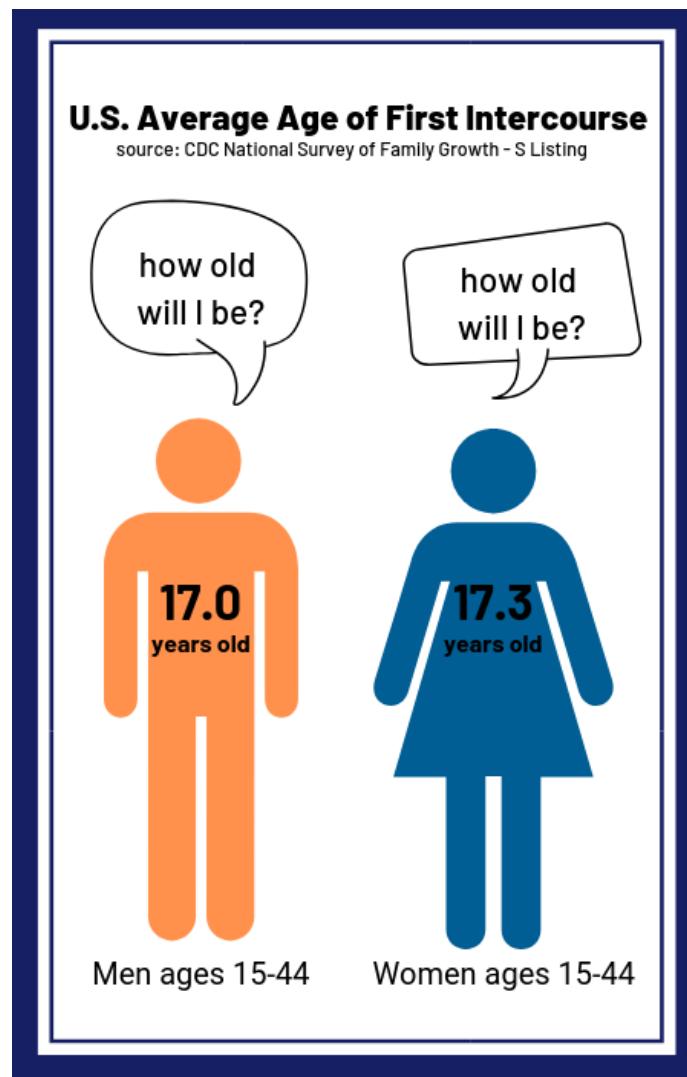
House Bill 120 - Sex Education.

I'm just going to get straight to the point. The big "V" has been coming up a lot in the Idaho State Capitol lately. That's right, our *values*. Do we value freedom by allowing parents to decide how and when their child engages in sex ed? Or do we value minimum standards for how and when children in public schools should participate in sex ed?

[HB 120](#) Sponsor Rep. Barb Ehardt (R., Idaho Falls) doesn't believe that government-regulated sex education aligns with Idaho's values. Her bill is currently awaiting a hearing in the Senate Education committee after passing in the House last Wednesday.

Currently in the United States, the mean age of first intercourse in women ages 15-44 is 17.3. For men, it's 17.0. Source: CDC [National Survey of Family Growth](#).

Mean Age of First Intercourse - U.S. Average



Personal Responsibility. Sex Ed doesn't just teach abstinence or how to use birth control. The education doesn't even stop at STIs and AIDS. Sex ed also teaches students:

- Signs of healthy & unhealthy relationships;
- How to respect others' rights to bodily autonomy;
- How to protect their academic success; and
- How to protect their college or future job prospects after graduation.

These are critical skills that will carry over into adulthood. Sex ed also teaches kids how to have personal responsibility for their health and well being. And personal responsibility is certainly highly-valued in Idaho.

How to talk about sex ed. When you're thinking about having "The Talk" with your representative, here are things to consider:

1. We're talking about student health here, and anything that negatively affects a student's health negatively affects their grades.
2. The intent of sex education is to prevent and delay disease, unwanted pregnancy, and to teach kids how to make decisions about relationships that can affect them for the rest of their lives.
3. We don't have any data or evidence that any of the sex education courses approved to use in schools "oversexualize" children or are age-inappropriate.
4. Kids growing up today are doing so in the digital age. (Read: they are absolutely capable of, *and are*, accessing sex education from many other online sources.)

Wouldn't it be helpful if we had an idea of what our kids knew about sex?

What I'm trying to say is that we're probably a little bit past the point of talking about whether sex ed should be 'opt-in' or 'opt-out.' Remind those without the public health background that sex education is about community health. We value that, right? (Please say yes.) At some point our children will become adult members of society, so it's in everyone's best interest that they understand boundaries, the consequences of their sexual choices, and know how to participate in healthy conversations about sex.

SB 1099aa - 'Substance Use Treatment Programs for Youth"

SB 1099aa just passed in the Senate this week. It's stated intention is to create more access to therapeutic and residential treatment programs for youth 13-17, including substance use treatment programs (which we very much need in Idaho). Although it would require a doctor's verification that treatment is needed and the parent would be required to provide consent to treat, there is not oversight or license for the actual therapeutic component of the program. This treatment may include de-tox, which can be a very dangerous situation and require skill in treatment. This proposal may be a solution that puts an already vulnerable population at increased risk. The bill is tentatively scheduled for a hearing on March 14 in House Health and Welfare committee.

House Bill 70 - Firearms & Sexual Battery

Representative Wintrow's (D., Boise) HB 70 is final up for a third reading on Monday. This will add language that a person with a felony conviction of sexual battery of a minor child will not be able to own a firearm.

Supplemental Health & Welfare Budgets

Both Health & Welfare supplemental budget bills - SB 1139 & SB 1140 - are up for a third reading in the House Monday. Looks like both should be sent to the Governor without issue.

House Bill 180 - Syringe/Needle Exchange Program

HB 180: House Bill 180, introduced by Representative Megan Blanksma (R., Hammett), adds language that would allow organizations to operate a syringe/needle exchange program on a strictly one-to-one basis. The bill is intended to reduce the risk of folks coming into contact with dirty and discarded needles, as well as help keep individuals struggling with a substance use addiction from potentially acquiring a disease from dirty needles. The bill passed the House 47-20 on Monday, March 4. It is now headed to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee.

HB 209 - Arrest Without Warrant

Representative Goesling's (R., Moscow) bill crossed over to the Senate this week. It would allow the police to make arrests for threats against schools without a warrant. It's awaiting a hearing within the Senate Judiciary & Rules committee.

Senate Bill 1005 - Human Trafficking

SB 1005 amends the law to make human trafficking a stand alone crime. Current law requires that it be committed in conjunction with another crime. After amendment in the

Senate, it passed 34-0-1 on 2/21. It should be voted on in the Senate this week.

Senate Bill 1034 - Oral Chemotherapy

In a welcome demonstration of bicameral bipartisanship, 3 Senators- Den Hartog (R., Meridian), Heider (R., Twin Falls) and Burgoyne (D., Boise), and 4 Representatives - Vander Woude (R., Nampa) Wintrow (D., Boise), Crane (R., Nampa) and Boyle(R., Midvale) sponsored [SB1034](#). The bill, aimed at making oral chemotherapy more accessible and affordable for cancer patients, passed the Senate 27-8 on March 5. Oral chemotherapy has the potential to significantly help cancer patients and should not be more expensive than intravenous chemotherapy. SB1034 has been sent to the House Health and Welfare Committee for a hearing.

Senate Bill 1075 - Service Dog Legislation

On March 5, [SB 1075](#) passed the Senate unanimously. It is scheduled for a hearing in the House Health and Welfare committee on Wednesday, March 13th at 9:00 am. Senator Abby Lee (R., Fruitland) will be presenting along with Cheryl Bloom who has worked hard on this issue. Representative Muffy Davis (D., Ketchum) will carry the bill in the House.

[**IPHA/ICA Bill Tracker**](#)

Events Coming Up

Monday, March 11: Molina Healthcare Open House, Clarion Inn, 1399 Bench Road, Pocatello; 5:30-7:30 pm; Molina Service Provider Representatives and receive assistance with contracting and provider setup; RSVP to Jessica.poole@molinahealthcare.com; Questions, 801-542-7909

Tuesday, March 12: Molina Healthcare Open House, Hilton Gardens Inn, 700 Lindsay Blvd., Idaho Falls; 5:30-7:30 pm; meet Molina Service Provider Representatives and receive assistance with contracting and provider setup; RSVP to Jessica.poole@molinahealthcare.com; Questions, 801-542-7909

Wednesday & Thursday, March 15-16: Join the Idaho Peer Support Association and Empower Idaho for their Southeast Idaho Peer Support Connection Conference this March. CEUs will be offered for CPSS's, CFSP's, and CRC's. Click [here](#) for more information, and click [here](#) to register.

- The North Idaho Conference will occur April 5th and 6th in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
- Southwest Idaho Conference will occur June 7th and 8th in Boise, Idaho.

Monday, March 18: Managing Suicide Risk for Emergency Department Staff and First Responders Webinar with Kent Corso, Psy.D

Tuesday, March 19: Idaho Caregiver Alliance *Lunch for Legislators*, First Floor Capitol Rotunda, 11:00 - 1:00; all caregivers across the lifespan encouraged to attend.

Thursday, March 28: Quarterly Meeting of Idaho Caregiver Alliance, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, Idaho Parents Unlimited, 4619 Emerald, Suite E, Boise; contact Marilyn Sword for details, frontiergroupidaho@gmail.com

April 24th: Emergency Management Exercises. Do you have a disability or know someone who does? The Consortium for Idahoans with

Disabilities needs your help. **Why:** Volunteers are needed in Boise to participate in some emergency management and preparedness exercises. This exercise will help *us all* understand the unique concerns people with disabilities face when natural disasters and emergencies occur. **When:** Central Public Health District is conducting an exercise on April 24th. They are looking for volunteers to participate in a Point of Distribution exercise. It will roughly last 4-6 hours. **Who Should RSVP:** Individuals with disabilities to test different capacities in terms of building accessibility, staff training and overall functions. **Contact:** Jerry Reiner at [SILC](#) (208-334-3800) to RSVP or to ask questions.



April 25 – 27: Idaho Integrated Behavioral Health Network 2nd Annual Conference. This conference is focused on systems transformation to increase access and improve the quality of behavioral health services in Idaho. Register before February 28th to receive 25% off. Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

April 27: Navigating Longevity Conference, YMCA, Ketchum; sponsored by Senior Connection in Hailey, Idaho; for more info, contact Teresa Beahen Lipman (teresa@seniorconnectionidaho.org) or Ramona Duke (ramona@seniorconnectionidaho.org) or 208-788-3468

May 1 & 2: Northwest Regional Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM) Conference. This year's theme is "Setting the Stage: Creating a Shared Vision to Support Transformation". For more information, click [here](#).

June 13: JAVA Elder Abuse Summit, BSU; Keynote speaker: Page Ulrey, King County (Washington) Prosecutor; for more info, contact Mary Holden (maryholden@boisestate.edu) or 208-850-4771

June 2019: Join the Northwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) for an 8-session virtual learning collaborative focused on Motivational Interviewing Skills. The next session will be in June! To learn more about the Northwest ATTC, click [here](#).

Nov. 7-8: 2019 Western Partnerships Conference on Human Services (formerly the Idaho Partnerships Conference on Human Services). Where: Boise Centre on the Grove. For more info, contact Bibiana Nertney, Community Partnerships of Idaho, (Bibiana.nertney@mypcid.com / 208-376-4999). If you are interested in submitting a proposal, or know a wonderful presenter please find more information at <https://idahopchs.com/2019-call-presentations/>

As always, please let me know if your organization has any important legislative action or event coming up you'd like included.

Best of Health,
Maija

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