



Legislative Update

Idaho Voices for Children is a statewide organization that develops and promotes a policy agenda that improves child health, education, safety and family economic security.

FEBRUARY 26, 2010

SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF IDAHO'S 60TH LEGISLATURE

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GREAT NEWS! Major progress for the De Facto Custodian Act, Senate Bill 1382:

The act has passed the House with wide support. After some revisions, the bill (previously SB1309) was reintroduced Monday and assigned the new bill number SB1382 after its first reading in the Senate. **But we need your support! The De Facto Custodian Act has a hearing date on Monday, March 1 at 1:30 PM in Senate State Affairs, West Wing Garden Level, Statehouse. Your attendance shows important endorsement.**

The De Facto Custodian Act was introduced to the Senate Judiciary and Rules agenda by Chair Denton Darrington February 1st and sent to print. The purpose of the act is to meet the needs of children for caring and stable homes by providing a flexible method by which a third party who has cared for and supported a child may obtain legal and physical custody of the child where such custody is in the child's best interests. The copy of the bill is available at: <http://legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2010/S1309.htm>

STATUS OF IVC-SUPPORTED BILLS CURRENTLY IN IDAHO LEGISLATURE:

House Bill 432: Immunization Assessments This bill would authorize and enable a board to be created which would assess all health insurance carriers based on the number of insured children. It also creates a fund in the State Treasurer's office which would be used by the state of Idaho to purchase vaccines for insured children and thereby allow insured children and the state of Idaho to benefit from the vaccine purchasing discount available through the federal Centers for Disease Control. House Bill 432 has been printed and read in both the House Health and Wellness Committee and the Business Committee. It was reported out of committee and sent to its second reading Friday February 5. The bill enjoys bipartisan support, as well as support from insurers.

Senate Bill 1335: Immunization Registry Amends existing law relating to immunization to remove language regarding a voluntary immunization registry, to remove a certain authorization requirement for inclusion in the registry, to provide for exclusion from the registry upon a certain statement that may not be part of a general authorization or release, to clarify the purposes for which the registry shall be maintained and for which the registry information shall be disclosed, to clarify that certain information shall be included in the registry and to clarify that disclosure of registry information shall be limited to certain persons. The Immunization Registry bill was referred to the Health and Welfare committee, and is now awaiting its third reading.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT FROM

CHIP

It's been one year already since the enactment of CHIPRA. HHS Sec. Sebelius announced that over the past year 2.6 million children received coverage under Medicaid or CHIP. She also issued the "The Secretary's Challenge: Connecting Kids to Coverage," a 5 year campaign to get children who are eligible but unenrolled into Medicaid and CHIP. As part of this initiative, she has teamed up with Agriculture Secretary Vilsack so that information from the SNAP program (AKA food stamps) could be used to identify eligible children. To see the press release, click here. There is a great report on InsureKidsNow.gov website that reflects on the accomplishments of the program. This link will direct you to the report. CMS recently issued two "State Health Official" letters that you may be interested in reviewing on the premium assistance option and express lane. I have put links to the letters on the Voices Wiki. Click here for a link to the CHIPRA implementation page on the Wiki.

Childhood Obesity

Mrs. Obama's initiative is based four pillars:

1. Focusing on what kids eat, most of which they eat at school - "Healthy Schools"
2. Accessing affordable healthy food
3. Physical Activity [e.g., play, PE, etc.]
4. Equipping parents/families with the information they need to make healthy choices

Idaho Voices for Children is a proud member of Voices for America's Children





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Dr. Patrice Burgess & Corey Surber

Education Co-chairs: Jim Everett & Chris Loucks

Child Welfare Co-chairs:
Mike Scholl & Nicole Sirak

LEGISLATION RELATING TO CHILDREN INTRODUCED TO DATE

The following bills have been introduced to the Idaho Congress.

* = Idaho Voices for Children is currently working to see starred bills pass the Idaho Legislature.

* **House Bill 432 Immunization Assessments:** Addresses immunization issues on an ongoing basis by creating a state immunization policy commission. The bill passed in the House with strong support. The bill has been referred to the Senate, was reported out of the Health and Welfare Committee and is now awaiting its second reading on the floor.

* **Senate Bill 1335 Immunization Registry:** Amends existing law relating to immunization to remove language regarding a voluntary immunization registry, to remove a certain authorization requirement for inclusion in the registry, to provide for exclusion from the registry upon a certain statement that may not be part of a general authorization or release, to clarify the purposes for which the registry shall be maintained and for which the registry information shall be disclosed, to clarify that certain information shall be included in the registry and to clarify that disclosure of registry information shall be limited to certain persons. The Immunization Registry bill was referred to the Health and Welfare committee, which has sent it to print.

* **Senate Bill 1382 De Facto Custodian Act:** The purpose of the act is to meet the needs of children for caring and stable homes by providing a flexible method by which a third party who has cared for and supported a child may obtain legal and physical custody of the child where such custody is in the child's best interests. The De Facto Custodian Act remains in the Judiciary & Rules Committee for revisions. The bill will likely be assigned a new RS number once the changes are incorporated.

House Bill 499 Paternity Law: Amends existing law relating to paternity to revise provisions as they relate to unmarried biological fathers; to provide that certain disclosures shall be required to be made by unmarried mothers; to revise provisions relating to notices of birth and adoption proceedings; and to provide procedures for unmarried biological fathers relating to claims for paternity and custody.

House 523 Juvenile Corrections Act: Amends existing code relating to the Juvenile Corrections Act to provide that the court retains jurisdiction over violations of probation or informal disposition filed prior to a former juvenile's twenty-first birthday. The Act was sent to the House Judiciary committee on Monday the 15th.

House 579 Education: Adds to existing law relating to education to provide for transferring of certain grades and credits to a student's high school transcript and to provide for nonapplication to senior projects. The bill is now in its third reading in the House.

Senate Bill 1288 Child Custody: This legislation aims to prevent changes to child custody orders while a parent serving in the military is on an active tour of duty. The bill is currently being reviewed by the Rules and Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 1290 Injury to Children: Set to increase the maximum sentence from 10 to 20 years for persons convicted of causing injury to a child. The bill is currently being reviewed by the Rules and Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 1313 Child Protective Act: Amends existing law relating to the Child Protective Act to provide that the Department of Health and Welfare need not make reasonable efforts to prevent the placement of a child into foster care where a parent has committed an injury to a child that results in a serious or great bodily injury. The Child Protective Act was referred to Health and Welfare and has been reported out of committee and back to the floor for its second reading. The Senate has not yet voted.

Senate Build 1338 Education – Military Children: Adds to existing law relating to education to provide educational opportunity for military children, to provide findings and purpose, to provide rulemaking authority and to provide for a responsible individual. It was reported out of the Education Committee and sent to the floor for its third reading.

BECOME A CHILD ADVOCATE TODAY!

- Support our work and lend your voice in support of Idaho's 374,000 children (Idaho Kids Count 2007)
- Write your congressperson
- Testify in congress

For more information, contact us or visit us online: www.idahovoices.org/support/join.htm