



# 2nd Legislative Update

January 18, 2008

## Legislative Links

- Who's my legislator?
- Idaho Legislature website
- How a bill becomes a law
- How to testify before a legislative committee

# Idaho State Legislature 2008 Legislative Session

## And with the start of the session comes...tight quarters

The 2008 Legislative Session began last week and the old Ada County courthouse has been buzzing with activity. It seems as though space is one big news item this session, since elbow room (or lack thereof) in the temporary quarters affects everything (including the number of available seats in committee meetings). It is cozy, but many people have commented that once you get inside, lawmakers are fairly easy to track down.

There are other ways to see what's going on--Idaho Public Television is offering live video coverage of the House and Senate, and live audio coverage of JFAC meetings. For more information, visit <http://www.idahoptv.org/leglive>.

## Update on ICCP Rules Changes

Two rules changes regarding the Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) were drafted for the 2008 session:

- The first states that "the Department of Health and Welfare is proposing rules changes in order to: (1) update eligibility limits, (2) update the co-payment rates, and (3) add cost saving measures that will allow the ICCP to continue to serve those citizens with the greatest need of subsidized child care."
  - For more information see [PROPOSED RULE CHANGE 01](#)
- The second states that "the Department is proposing rules changes to require non-working students to pay a co-pay and require individuals who are applying for a child care subsidy to cooperate with child support." These changes are being made in order to generate cost savings necessary to improve the market rates paid by the state to providers.
  - For more information see [PROPOSED RULE CHANGE 02](#)

The ICCP Rules Changes were presented to the House Health & Welfare Committee on Monday and to the Senate Health & Welfare Committee on Tuesday by Genie Sue Weppner, the Program Manager at the Department of Health & Welfare, Division of Welfare. **The proposed rules changes were well received by both committees**, and no one present testified against them (kudos to Genie Sue for collaborating with stakeholders and hammering out any issues before the legislative session!). The ICCP Rules are classified as "pending rules" **and since they were approved by both the House and Senate H&W Committees, they should take effect at the end of the current legislative session.**

Genie Sue notes that the work on this issue is not finished: she'll be meeting with concerned groups throughout the summer to get input on the issue of background check requirements for all ICCP providers.



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The ICCP Rules Changes are the first of the IVC-supported efforts (listed below) that have been introduced so far this session. We will continue to monitor new legislation as it is being introduced, and will track and report proposed legislation that could have an effect on Idaho's children. Stay tuned for next week's legislative update!

*Click on the links to view documents related to these issues.  
You can also [visit our website](#) to view or download this information.*

## IVC 2008 Policy Priorities:

### Child Health

IVC will work towards the introduction of a Concurrent Resolution stating that every child in Idaho should have access to primary and preventive health care.

Link to [DRAFT LEGISLATION](#)

### Early Care and Education

IVC will work towards establishment of an early childhood commission to provide a means of bringing together representatives of those concerned about the education of pre-kindergarten children in Idaho and helping to develop programs that will meet the needs of Idaho's children.

Link to [STATEMENT REGARDING 2008 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL](#)

IVC will support the Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) rule changes proposed by the Department of Health & Welfare (DHW) regarding:

- Criminal background checks for providers.
- Poverty & eligibility guidelines (increasing eligibility of more working, low-income families).
- Tiered reimbursement for child care providers (based upon the quality of services provided).

Link to [RULES CHANGES](#)

IVC supports the ongoing efforts to strengthen statewide child care licensing.

Link to [DRAFT LEGISLATION](#)

Link to [Q & A LIST](#)



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This legislative update has been sent to all *Idaho Voices for Children* members. If you have questions or wish to remove your name from this mailing list, email Sara Herring at [sara@idahovoices.org](mailto:sara@idahovoices.org) or call 208. 336. 5533 x 233

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