



# 6th Legislative Update

February 22, 2008

## Legislative Links

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- How to testify before a legislative committee

Idaho State Legislature  
2008 Legislative Session

## Big Turnout at City Club forum on February 19th

### Topic-- "Early Childhood Education: Finding a Path Forward"

A crowd of approximately 220 people gathered to hear the discussion on Tuesday the 19th about early childhood education in Idaho. We'd like to thank the 15 legislators who attended the forum and showed interest in this issue. Idaho Voices for Children was the underwriter of the forum, which will be re-broadcasted on the following dates:

- Saturday, Feb. 23rd - 8:00 PM on NPR News 91 (91.5 FM)
- Tuesday, Feb. 26th - 12:00 PM on KBSU AM (730 AM and 1450 AM)
- 7:00 PM on NPR News 91 (91.5 FM)

## Children's Healthcare Resolution Fails in Committee

The House Health & Welfare Committee held a hearing for **HCR 43, the "Concurrent Resolution Recognizing the Importance of Children's Health"** on Monday, February 18th. After hearing only testimony in support of the resolution and none opposing it, the resolution was killed in committee on a 7-5 vote. Those voting in opposition were concerned about personal responsibility, program growth and costs, and fears of mandatory government health coverage.

While Idaho Voices for Children is disappointed by this outcome, we wish to thank all the organizations and individuals who spoke out in support of the resolution, and on behalf of Idaho's children.

### House Health & Welfare Committee Voting Record on HCR 43

Ayes	Nays
Rep. Sharon Block, Chairman (Dist. 24 - Twin Falls)	Rep. Pete Nielsen, Vice Chairman (Dist. 22 - Mountain Home)
Rep. Carlos Bilbao, Sponsor - HCR 43 (Dist. 11 - Emmett)	Rep. Janice McGeachin (Dist. 32 - Idaho Falls)
Rep. John Rusche (Dist. 7 - Lewiston)	Rep. Thomas Loertscher (Dist. 31 - Iona)
Rep. Sue Chew (Dist. 17 - Boise)	Rep. Paul Shepherd (Dist. 8 - Riggins)
Mr. Grant Burgogne, Acting Representative (Dist. 16 - Boise)	Rep. Jim Marriott (Dist. 28 - Blackfoot)
	Rep. Lynn Luker (Dist. 15 - Boise)
	Rep. Steven Thayn (Dist. 11 - Emmett)

## A quick word on other efforts...

Two pieces of legislation directly related to early childhood education have been introduced in the Senate. The first, **Senate Bill 1404** sponsored by Sen. Gary Schroeder (Dist. 6 - Moscow), would allow Idaho public schools to offer pre-k programs if a majority of voters approve such a program in an election. The second, **Senate Bill 1406** sponsored by Sen. Mike Burkett (Dist. 19 - Boise), would establish voluntary pilot pre-k programs for children 4 years of age.

We will continue to track legislation and keep you informed of proposals that may affect Idaho's children.

To view a list of our policy priorities for the 2008 legislative session, visit our website at <http://www.idahovoices.org/policy/policy.htm>.

## Legislative Tracking

### Child Health

<b>H0396</b>	<b>Schools, children, vision screening</b> - The legislation will provide for vision screening for all students grade 1, 2, 4, 6, 8. The legislation will implement a structure to offer training to the screeners, screen children at consistent intervals, and screen children across the state of Idaho.	House Education Committee
<b>HCR043</b>	<b>Concurrent Resolution Recognizing the Importance of Children's Health</b> - The purpose of this legislation is to reaffirm that children are one of Idaho's most important assets and to declare that children should have access to high-quality, comprehensive, affordable primary and preventive health care services. The resolution indicates that with access to health care for children there would likely be less reliance upon more expensive types of health care services such as emergency rooms, which pass the costs for treating uninsured children onto other consumers and overall communities. This resolution makes clear parents are responsible to provide for their children's health and dental care but sometimes have trouble accessing affordable care.	Held in the House Health & Welfare Committee on a 7-5 vote  AYES - Block, Bilbao, Rusche, Chew, Burgogne (Acting Representative, Dist. 16)  NAYS - Nielsen, McGeachin, Loertscher, Shepherd (8), Marriott, Luker, Thayne

### Safety

<b>H0462</b>	<b>Child safety restraints required, when</b> - Amends existing law relating to passenger safety for children to provide that there shall be no exceptions to the law requiring all children six years of age or younger to be properly secured in a child safety restraint.	House Transportation & Defense Committee
<b>H0499</b>	<b>Boat/personal watercraft, operation</b> - To ensure that unclear or outdated provisions in the Idaho Safe Boating Act are not compromising the public's safety, this proposal focuses on three sections that impact safe vessel operations...the third proposal establishes mandatory boating safety education for operators 14 years of age and younger. Mandatory use of cut-off switches on personal watercraft (PWC), a critical safety feature, would also be required. This will provide a safer environment for PWC operators as well as other recreational boaters.	Held in the House Resources & Conservation Committee on a 15-3 vote
<b>S1361</b>	<b>Speed limit, school zones</b> - Adds to existing law relating to rules of the road to provide for reduced speed limits in school zones; to require certain information on a school zone sign; and to specify a fixed penalty for exceeding the posted speed limit in a school zone.	Senate 14th Order
<b>S1376</b>	<b>Daycare facilities</b> - This legislation amends Idaho Code to revise and extend the state's licensing requirements for child care providers. The current code provides for minimum health and safety standards for day care centers with thirteen or more children, but does not provide any regulation for those providing care for six or fewer children, and very minimal regulation for those providing care for seven to twelve children. This legislation would extend licensing to all providers who receive compensation and care for four or more children, with current exceptions maintained. Basic requirements would include criminal history background checks, health and safety inspections, fire inspections, restrictions on alcohol and tobacco use, firearms safety, and infant CPR and first aid training. It establishes new staff-child ratios for day care and mixed age groups, and brings current code into consistency with existing administrative practices and rules.	Senate Health & Welfare Committee

### Child Welfare

<b>H0382</b>	<b>Sex offender, no access/school child</b> - Amends existing law relating to adult criminal sex offenders and access to children in schools to clarify restrictions on adult criminal sex offenders' access to children in school buildings, on school grounds and properties used by a school.	House Judiciary, Rules, & Administration Committee
<b>H0444</b>	<b>School district contractor/criminal history</b> - Amends the existing statute Idaho Code Section 33-130 to clarify the requirements of school contractors to have background checks for employees in direct contact with school children.	House Education Committee

<b>Child Welfare (continued)</b>		
<b>HJM007</b>	<b>Internet pornography/access stopped</b> - The purpose of this legislation is to protect the physical and psychological well-being of Idaho's children and employees by shielding them from inappropriate materials located on the Internet. The members of the Idaho Legislature will strongly urge the United States Congress to take action to help stop children and employees from accessing Internet pornography and that legislation be enacted to facilitate a technology-based solution that allows parents and employers to subscribe to Internet access services that exclude adult content.	House 2nd Reading
<b>S1263</b>	<b>Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act</b> - purpose is to provide courts with guidelines to follow during custody disputes and divorce proceedings, to help courts identify families at risk for abduction, and to provide methods to prevent the abduction of children.	Senate PASSED House Judiciary, Rules & Administration Committee
<b>Education</b>		
<b>H0503</b>	<b>Key to the Future Scholarships</b> - Adds to existing law to provide eligibility criteria for Key to the Future Scholarships for students; to provide that Key to the Future students shall remain drug, alcohol and tobacco free; to provide procedures; and to provide the amount and length of the award for Key to the Future students.	House Education Committee
<b>S1404</b>	<b>School age, revised</b> - Purpose of this legislation is to provide that children of four years or older may attend prekindergarten in the public schools and to provide that Idaho public schools may offer prekindergarten programs if a majority of voters approve such a program in an election and to provide that the voters may approve a levy to pay for the program.	Senate Education Committee
<b>S1406</b>	<b>Early childhood development/education</b> - The purpose of this bill is to establish a voluntary pre-kindergarten program for children 4 years of age. Local pre-K councils appointed by the district superintendent may plan and develop a high quality pre-K program for the community. Pre-K education is to be provided by qualified pre-K educators and in compliance with state pre-kindergarten learning standards.	Senate Education Committee
<b>S1409</b>	<b>Alternative educ, support units</b> - addresses the intensifying needs of Idaho school districts to provide alternative education programs for at-risk students in grades K-6. Currently the State of Idaho funds alternative programs which are conducive to learning for at-risk students in grades 7-12. Idaho school districts and secondary students in those districts benefit from the alternative program funding that provides program flexibility at the local level.	Senate Education Committee
<b>SCR122</b>	<b>School funding formula, study</b> - States findings of the Legislature and authorizes the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee to direct the Office of Performance Evaluations to conduct a study of Idaho's kindergarten through grade 12 public education funding formula in order to identify & evaluate issues relating to the adequacy of K-12 public education funding.	Senate State Affairs Committee
<b>SCR123</b>	<b>International education, supported</b> - States legislative findings and supports specified international education.	Senate Education Committee



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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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