



# 9th Legislative Update

March 21, 2008

## Legislative Links

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Idaho State Legislature  
2008 Legislative Session

## IVC makes significant progress on early education issue

IVC has made progress in laying the groundwork for discussion and advancement of early childhood development issues. We had drafted a proposal to conduct a background study and to bring members of the Idaho Senate and the House of Representatives to the table to consider future direction on this important issue. Though this proposal was not introduced as legislation this year, we are pleased to report that significant progress has been made:

- The Speaker of the House, Lawrence Denney, had prepared an "RS" of our latest proposal. An RS ("routing slip") is a draft of proposed legislation prepared by legislative staff at the request of a legislator and is reviewed by a legislative committee for decision on whether to introduce (i.e. print) a bill. Speaker Denney has given us copies of [RS 18070](#), along with his permission to make the draft available to facilitate discussion during the interim between sessions. We appreciate Speaker Denney's providing us with the RS and his recognition that the issue deserves discussion prior to the next legislative session. We have already "vetted" this proposal with a number of people, including early childhood experts and key legislators.
- The Chairmen of the House and Senate Education Committees, Rep. Bob Nonini and Sen. John Goedde respectively, have sent a [letter to the Director of Legislative Services](#), requesting that a survey of current early childhood development and education programs in Idaho be conducted by the Office of Budget and Policy Planning. It is our understanding that the director is very amendable to this and feels it can be completed by the end of this year.  
[LINK TO COPY OF SIGNED LETTER](#)
- In addition, the survey above will include a review of early childhood development programs that are state-funded in states considered similar to Idaho by virtue of their size, economy or proximity that may provide informative or relevant comparisons.
- The survey of current programs and comparisons with other states noted above would have been the first phase of our proposed legislation. We are very pleased that our long term approach remains on track.

**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

\* = Sponsors are listed at the end of legislation. To view sponsors, click on the link to the legislation, then click on "View Statement of Purpose / Fiscal Impact".

### New This Week

none

### Child Health

<b>H0396</b> Sponsor: Aylee Schaefer, State Board of Education	<b>Schools, children, vision screening</b> - implements a structure to offer training to vision screeners, screen children at consistent intervals, and screen children across the state of Idaho.	House Education Committee
<b>H0513</b> Sponsor: Rep. Henbest	<b>Access to health insurance</b> - Provides for increased availability of premium assistance to individuals, small businesses, and large businesses. Also tasks the Department of Health and Welfare to conduct program outreach and marketing.	House Health & Welfare Committee

<b>Child Health (continued)</b>		
<b>HCR043</b> Sponsors: Sen. McGee, Rep. Bilbao	<b>Concurrent Resolution Recognizing the Importance of Children's Health</b> - reaffirms that children are one of Idaho's most important assets and declares that children should have access to high-quality, comprehensive, affordable primary and preventive health care services. 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.	Held in the House Health & Welfare Committee on a 7-5 vote  AYES - Block, Bilbao, Rusche, Chew, Burgogne (Acting Rep., Dist. 16)  NAYS - Nielsen, McGeachin, Lortscher, Shepherd (8), Marriott, Luker, Thayn
<b>HCR055</b> Sponsor: Rep. Henbest	<b>Public schools/food vending machines</b> - urges the State Department of Education to adopt certain nutritional values for food sold in vending machines in public schools.	House ADOPTED; Defeated in Senate Education Committee
<b>S1394</b> Multiple Sponsors*	<b>Insurance, dependent, age</b> - In 2007, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 1105 to raise the dependent age that children could remain on their parents' health insurance policy. Inadvertently, large group, government entities, fraternal societies, public service corporations and self-funded plans were excluded. This legislation rectifies that oversight.	Senate PASSED; House PASSED; President of the Senate signed
<b>S1443</b> Sponsors: Sen. Werk, Sen. Broadsword, Rep. Henbest	<b>Schools, pupils, medication</b> - allows for the self-administration and possession of an epinephrin Auto-Injector by K-12 students.	Senate PASSED; House PASSED; President of the Senate signed
<b>Safety</b>		
<b>H0462</b> Sponsors: Sen Broadsword, Rep. Ringo	<b>Child safety restraints required, when</b> - provides 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> Sponsor: Dean Sangrey, Dept. of Parks & Recreation	<b>Boat/personal watercraft, operation</b> - establishes mandatory boating safety education for operators 14 years of age and younger.	Held in the House Resources & Conservation Committee on a 15-3 vote
<b>H0511a</b> Sponsors: Rep. Matthews, Rep. Henbest	<b>Child mortality prevention team</b> - establishes a statewide multidisciplinary, multiagency Child Mortality Prevention Team to aid in the prevention of child deaths through the examination of relevant records.	House PASSED; Returned to Senate Health & Welfare Committee after Senate Floor Debate on 3/20/08
<b>S1361a</b> Sponsors: Sen. Goedde, Sen. McGee	<b>Speed limit, school zones</b> - provides for reduced speed limits in school zones; requires certain information on a school zone sign; and specifies a fixed penalty for exceeding the posted speed limit in a school zone.	Senate PASSED; House Transportation & Defense Committee
<b>S1376</b> Multiple Sponsors*	<b>Daycare facilities</b> - revises and extends the state's licensing requirements for child care providers. Extends licensing to all providers who receive compensation and care for four or more children, with current exceptions maintained.	Held in Senate Health & Welfare Committee after hearing on 3/3/08
<b>Child Welfare</b>		
<b>H0382aa,aaS</b> Sponsors: Rep. Clark, Sen. Darrington	<b>Sex offender, no access/school child</b> - clarifies restrictions on adult criminal sex offenders' access to children in school buildings, on school grounds and properties used by a school.	House PASSED; Senate PASSED; House concurs in Senate amendment; President of the Senate signed
<b>H0444</b> Sponsor: Rep. Patrick	<b>School district contractor/criminal history</b> - clarifies the requirements of school contractors to have background checks for employees in direct contact with school children.	House Education Committee
<b>H0566aaS</b> Sponsors: Rep. Patrick; Christina Linder, State Dept. of Education	<b>School Employees/Criminal history checks</b> - addresses several gaps in the fingerprinting and background check system; includes requiring background checks for student teachers, independent contractors and their employees, and other individuals who have unsupervised contact with students in a public school setting.	House PASSED; Senate PASSED
<b>HJM007</b> Multiple Sponsors*	<b>Internet pornography/access stopped</b> - urges the United States Congress to take action to help stop children and employees from accessing Internet pornography.	ADOPTED
<b>S1263</b> Sponsors: Sen. Davis, Dale Higer	<b>Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act</b> - provides courts with guidelines to follow during custody disputes and divorce proceedings, helps courts identify families at risk for abduction, and provides methods to prevent the abduction of children.	Senate PASSED House Judiciary, Rules & Administration Committee

<b>Education</b>		
<b>H0503</b> Multiple Sponsors*	<b>Key to the Future Scholarships</b> - provides eligibility criteria for Key to the Future Scholarships for students; provides that Key to the Future students shall remain drug, alcohol and tobacco free.	House PASSED; Defeated in Senate Education Committee
<b>H0551</b> Multiple Sponsors*	<b>School age revised</b> - Will allow any child who is five years of age and who has completed private kindergarten in this state or another state, or public out-of-state kindergarten, but has not reached the "school age" requirement in Idaho the opportunity to enter the first grade.	House Education Committee
<b>S1404a</b> Multiple Sponsors*	<b>School age, revised</b> - provides that children of four years or older may attend prekindergarten in the public schools and provides that Idaho public schools may offer prekindergarten programs if a majority of voters approve such a program in an election and provides that the voters may approve a levy to pay for the program. (AMENDMENT CHANGED INTENT)	Returned to Senate Education Committee after Senate Floor Debate on 3/20/08
<b>S1406</b> Sponsors: Sen. Burkett, Sen. Bastian, Sen. Corder	<b>Early childhood development/education</b> - establishes 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.	Held in Senate Education Committee at Sen. Burkett's request
<b>S1409</b> Sponsor: Sen. Sagness	<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.	Senate FAILED Floor Vote: 14 - 19; 2 Absent & Excused
<b>SCR122</b> Sponsor: Sen. Keough	<b>School funding formula, study</b> - 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>SCR134</b> Sponsor: Sen. Burkett	<b>International education, supported</b> - States legislative findings and supports specified international education.	Senate ADOPTED; House 3rd Reading
<b>Family Economic Security</b>		
<b>H0509</b> Sponsors: Rep. Chew, Rep. Henbest	<b>Idaho Prescription Drug Program</b> - provides those uninsured and underinsured with rates not available to them but available to those in group plans to purchase medications.	House Health & Welfare Committee
<b>H0521</b> Sponsor: Rep. Henbest	<b>Health insurance premium increases</b> - provides that all insurance policies providing coverage to Idaho residents will include a provision in their policies that keeps the annual maximum amount of a premium increase to no more than the rate of medical inflation.	House Business Committee
<b>H0548</b> Sponsor: Liza Carberry, Investment Manager, State Treasurer's Office	<b>College Savings Program, revised</b> - New language will allow the Board to authorize minors to open accounts, which will encourage young people to save for their own education.	House PASSED; Senate PASSED; To Governor
<b>H0588</b> Multiple Sponsors*	<b>Income tax, grocery credit</b> - addresses the inadequacies of the current law, by incrementally increasing the "Food Tax Credit", starting with an increase to \$50 for the poorest Idahoans, \$30 for all other Idahoans, and an additional \$20 for seniors, for tax year 2008.	House PASSED; Senate PASSED
<b>S1343</b> Sponsor: Kandee Yearley, Health & Welfare	<b>Child support, insurance, costs</b> - adopt the federal reasonable cost definition regarding the cost of health insurance or cash medical support as ordered in a medical child support order.	Senate PASSED; House Health & Welfare Committee



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- Membership starts as low as \$15 annually.

Join now by clicking [www.idahovoices.org/support/join.htm](http://www.idahovoices.org/support/join.htm)

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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