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Idaho State Legislature 2008 Legislative Session

Save the Date - IVC Fall Conference, Oct. 24th, Boise

The IVC Fall Conference will be held on Friday October 24th in Boise. Stay tuned...more details to come.

2008 Session overview

The 2008 Legislative Session lasted for 87 days, convening on January 7 and adjourning *sine die* (without setting a date to reconvene) on April 2, 2008. This year 960 pieces of legislation were drafted, 635 bills and 73 other pieces of legislation were introduced, 413 bills passed both houses, and 410 bills were or will be enacted into law (as stated in the 2008 [Sine Die Report](#), published by the Legislative Services Office).

IVC 2008 Legislative Successes

IVC Early Childhood Successes

- **The Chairmen of the House and Senate Education Committees (Representative Bob Nonini and Senator John Goedde) have requested that the staff of the Legislative Services Office undertake research on Idaho's early education programs during the interim [LINK TO LETTER].** This research will include an inventory of government agencies and non-government entities receiving government funding in Idaho to provide pre-kindergarten early childhood development or education services including programs supporting parents providing early education to children. The source of funding (federal, state, or local) and the number of children served are also to be quantified. The study will also include a review of federally funded pre-kindergarten early childhood programs available to states but not implemented in Idaho. **IVC worked hard to encourage the Idaho Legislative leaders to find out more about existing early education services as part of the comprehensive IVC effort to support effective programs that will assist with the early childhood development of Idaho's children.** IVC's long-term process envisions bringing many people, data, scientific knowledge and ideas to the table to be reviewed, analyzed and evaluated with the goal of developing policy recommendations with broad-based support.
- As part of this comprehensive approach, **Speaker of the House Lawrence Denny authorized at IVC's request the printing of RS 18070 for circulation and comment during the summer.** If passed, the RS would create a committee to establish a blueprint for Idaho to follow in expanding early care and education services in Idaho.

Other Legislative Successes for Idaho Children

Please note we want to thank all of the organizations working hard to improve the quality of life of Idaho's children. We recognize that this list is not complete but we wanted to let you know about some of the successes that we tracked.

- **Idaho Head Start** - JFAC recommended the ongoing continuation of TANF funding for Head Start at the same levels as last year [LEGISLATION] [HEAD START STATEMENT]
- **Community Health Center Grant Program** - JFAC appropriated an additional \$1,000,000 to the Community Health Center Grant Program [LEGISLATION] [ABOUT COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS]
- **Governor Otter's scholarship program** - the Legislature authorized \$10 million for the Opportunity Scholarship endowment fund [LEGISLATION]

(continued on next page)

Other Successes for Idaho Children (continued)

- **ICCP Rules changes** - Two rules governing the Idaho Child Care Program were passed [[RULE CHANGE 1](#)] [[RULE CHANGE 2](#)] [[ABOUT ICCP](#)]
- **Expanding Health Care Coverage for children up to age 25 on their parent's health care policy** - this year's legislation corrected errors of omission made in last year's legislation, which raised the dependent age that children could remain on their parent's health insurance policy [[LEGISLATION](#)]
- **School Zone Safety** - as of July 1, 2008, speeders ticketed in school zones will have to pay a higher fine [[LEGISLATION](#)]
- **Criminal History Checks for School Employees** - the current requirement for criminal history background checks has been expanded to include student teachers, independent contractors, and other individuals who have unsupervised contact with students in a public school setting. [[LEGISLATION](#)]
- **Grocery Tax Credit** - the Legislature passed a grocery tax credit that will offset some of the sales tax on food. The credit is available to all Idahoans, with the poorest Idahoans and seniors receiving a larger tax credit. [[LEGISLATION](#)]

Legislation tracked by IVC that affected Idaho's children

Throughout the 2008 legislative session IVC tracked 40 pieces of legislation* that affected children or child/family issues. We have provided details and links to those bills or resolutions below.

Of the 40 pieces of legislation introduced, 16 pieces were adopted or passed (40.0%)

Legislation by topic area

Child Health -	5 bills introduced; 3 bills were passed (60.0%) 2 resolutions introduced; neither passed (0%)
Safety -	5 bills introduced; 1 bill was passed (20.0%)
Child Welfare -	7 bills introduced; 4 bills were passed (57.1%) 1 joint memorial introduced; the joint memorial was adopted (100%)
Education -	9 bills introduced; 3 bills were passed (33.3%). 4 resolutions introduced; 1 resolution was adopted (25%)
Family Economic Security -	7 bills introduced; 3 bills were passed (42.9%)

***NOTE** - there were many, many bills introduced relating to children during the legislative session. The statistics above reflect the specific bills that IVC tracked under the issue areas of Child Health, Safety, Child Welfare, Education, and Family Economic Security. For a complete list of bills by topic, please visit <http://www3.state.id.us/oasis/topicind.html> on the [Idaho Legislature](#) website.

Under Construction: IVC begins policy development process

IVC is initiating a new grass-roots approach to identifying those issues which IVC will advocate for and support during the 2009 legislation session. As part of the process, IVC will be hosting forums on key issues throughout the summer. The forum topic areas are: KinCare, Child Health, and Early Care and Education. The forums will begin with information about the issue and how it affects Idaho from experts. This information will be followed by a facilitated discussion among participants on what would be the appropriate "Next Steps" to successfully move the child-centered agenda in Idaho. While there may be many solutions to issues, IVC is seeking out solutions which are "Idaho focused" and possible within Idaho's political milieu.

KinCare kicks off the policy development process with a meeting June 18th at the Ameritel Boise. For more information and to register contact Linda Jensen at ljensen@mtnstatesgroup.org. The dates and locations of the Child Health and Early Care and Education Forums will be available soon. Contact Sara Herring at sara@idahovoices.org to be put on the email list for the forum information you are interested in.

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".

H = House bill

S = Senate bill

aa = as amended in the house of origin

aaH = as amended in the House

aaS = as amended in the Senate

Voting records = Ayes - Nays - Absent & Excused

Child Health

<p>H0396 Sponsor: State Board of Education</p>	<p>Schools, children, vision screening - implements a structure to offer training to vision screeners, screen children at consistent intervals, and screen children across the state of Idaho.</p>	<p>House Education Committee No hearing held</p>
<p>H0513 Sponsor: Rep. Henbest</p>	<p>Access to health insurance - 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.</p>	<p>House Health & Welfare Committee No hearing held</p>
<p>HCR043 Sponsors: Sen. McGee, Rep. Bilbao</p>	<p>Concurrent Resolution Recognizing the Importance of Children's Health - 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.</p>	<p>Held in the House Health & Welfare Committee on a 7-5 vote</p> <p>AYES - Block, Bilbao, Rusche, Chew, Burgogne (Acting Rep., Dist. 16)</p> <p>NAYS - Nielsen, McGeachin, Lortscher, Shepherd (8), Marriott, Luker, Thayn</p>
<p>HCR055 Sponsor: Rep. Henbest</p>	<p>Public schools/food vending machines - urges the State Department of Education to adopt certain nutritional values for food sold in vending machines in public schools.</p>	<p>House ADOPTED 49-20-1; Defeated in Senate Education Committee by a 4-2 vote</p>
<p>S1394 Multiple Sponsors*</p>	<p>Insurance, dependent, age - 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.</p>	<p>Senate PASSED 34-0-1; House PASSED 68-0-2; Governor signed; Law effective 7/1/08</p>
<p>S1443 Sponsors: Sen. Werk, Sen. Broadsword, Rep. Henbest</p>	<p>Schools, pupils, medication - allows for the self-administration and possession of an epinephrin Auto-Injector by K-12 students.</p>	<p>Senate PASSED 32-0-3; House PASSED 66-0-4; Governor signed, Law effective 7/1/08</p>
<p>S1519 Contact: Amy Castro, Legislative Services Office</p>	<p>Appropriations, Community Health Center Grant - appropriating an additional \$1,000,000 to the Community Health Center Grant Program in the Physical Health Services Program in the Department of Health and Welfare for FY 2009.</p>	<p>Senate PASSED 32-0-3; House PASSED 59-7-4; Governor signed, Law effective 7/1/08</p>

Safety

<p>H0462 Sponsors: Sen Broadsword, Rep. Ringo</p>	<p>Child safety restraints required, when - 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.</p>	<p>House Transportation & Defense Committee No hearing held</p>
<p>H0499 Sponsor: Dept. of Parks & Recreation</p>	<p>Boat/personal watercraft, operation - establishes mandatory boating safety education for operators 14 years of age and younger.</p>	<p>Held in the House Resources & Conservation Committee on a 15-3 vote</p>
<p>H0511aa Sponsors: Rep. Matthews, Rep. Henbest</p>	<p>Child mortality prevention team - establishes a statewide multidisciplinary, multiagency Child Mortality Prevention Team to aid in the prevention of child deaths through the examination of relevant records.</p>	<p>House PASSED 63-5-2; Returned to Senate Health & Welfare Committee after Senate Floor Debate on 3/20/08 (per request of Sen. Lodge)</p>
<p>S1361aa,aaH Sponsors: Sen. Goedde, Sen. McGee</p>	<p>Speed limit, school zones - 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.</p>	<p>Senate PASSED (aa) 29-5-1; House amended, House PASSED (aaH) 37-26-7; Senate concurs in House amendment; Governor signed, Law effective 7/1/08</p>

Safety (continued)		
S1376 Multiple Sponsors*	Daycare facilities - 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 - no vote taken
Child Welfare		
H0382aa,aaS Sponsors: Rep. Clark, Sen. Darrington	Sex offender, no access/school child - clarifies restrictions on adult criminal sex offenders' access to children in school buildings, on school grounds and properties used by a school.	House PASSED (aa) 66-0-4; Senate amended (aaS), Senate PASSED (aa,aaS) 35-0-0; House concurs in Senate amendment; Governor signed, Law effective 7/1/08
H0444 Sponsor: Rep. Patrick	School district contractor/criminal history - clarifies the requirements of school contractors to have background checks for employees in direct contact with school children.	House Education Committee No hearing held
H0566aaS Sponsors: Rep. Patrick; State Dept. of Education	School Employees/Criminal history checks - 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 65-2-3; Senate amended (aaS), Senate PASSED 35-0-0; Governor signed Law effective 7/1/08
H0575 Sponsor: Rep. LeFavour	Teens at risk, defined - seeks to make a technical fix to Idaho's Teen Early Intervention Specialist Pilot program. This bill will accommodate the range of grades and ages present in Idaho middle schools as well as alternative schools.	House PASSED 70-0-0; Senate PASSED 33-0-2; Governor signed, Law effective 7/1/08
HJM007 Multiple Sponsors*	Internet pornography/access stopped - urges the United States Congress to take action to help stop children and employees from accessing Internet pornography.	ADOPTED
S1263 Sponsors: Sen. Davis, Dale Higer	Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act - 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 34-0-1; House Judiciary, Rules & Administration Committee No hearing held
S1370aaH Sponsors: Sen. Darrington, Bill von Tagen, Attorney General's Office	Sexual conduct/child witness/penalty - purpose is to prevent and prohibit adults from exposing children to sexual conduct with the intent or effect of desensitizing or grooming children for sexually exploitive activity.	Senate PASSED 31-0-4; House amended (aaH), House PASSED 67-2-1; Senate concurs in House amendment; Governor signed, Law effective 7/1/08
S1383 Sponsor: Robert L. Aldridge, Trust & Estate Professionals of Idaho, Inc.	Minor, court appointed guardian - provides that a convicted felon shall not be appointed guardian of a minor unless the court finds that such appointment is in the best interests of the minor; extends that provision to provide that a convicted felon cannot reside at the residence of the proposed guardian, or frequent that residence, and thereby endanger the minor, unless the court finds similarly that the appointment of the guardian is still in the best interests of the minor.	Senate PASSED 29-1-5; Held in the House Judiciary & Rules Committee on a 13-1 vote
Education		
H0503 Multiple Sponsors*	Key to the Future Scholarships - 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 55-14-1; Defeated in Senate Education Committee on a 7-1 vote
H0506 Multiple Sponsors*	Idaho Digital Learning Academy - allows IDLA to extend service to students in lower grades due to growth and to accommodate stakeholder needs. Currently gifted and talented math students in sixth grade take IDLA pre-algebra. This change will allow our law to reflect an existing service that IDLA provides to gifted and talented students in the state.	Held in House Education Committee on 2/18/08 (new legislation to be introduced)
H0543aa Multiple Sponsors*	Idaho Education Network - starts the process of identifying areas in Idaho that do not currently provide broadband capability, and allows the Department of Administration to develop a mapping of those under-served areas. Would also create a place for funds when available for the continued development of the Idaho Education Network.	House amended (aa), House PASSED 69-0-1; Senate PASSED 34-0-1; Governor signed, Law effective 7/1/08

Education (continued)		
HCR048 Multiple Sponsors*	Schools, enrollment, concurrent - encourage the Governor, the State Board of Education, the Department of Education, state colleges and universities and other interested parties to join members of the Legislature in discussion regarding the challenges facing efforts to increase concurrent enrollment and proposing solutions that can become the foundation for policy discussions during the next legislative session.	ADOPTED
H0551 Multiple Sponsors*	School age revised - 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 No hearing held
H0653 Contact: Amy Castro, Legislative Services Office	Appropriations, Department of Health & Welfare - Head Start Appropriations from TANF - At a minimum, the Department of Health and Welfare is directed to maintain Headstart appropriations paid from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds at the same level as was paid to the Head Start Program in fiscal year 2007.	House PASSED 58-10-2; Senate PASSED 34-0-1; Governor signed, Law effective 7/1/08
S1404aa <i>note - amendment changed original intent</i> Multiple Sponsors*	School age, revised - Amends existing law relating to education to revise provisions relating to school age for purposes of enrolling in first grade	Left "hanging" on the amending order in the Senate
S1406 Sponsors: Sen. Burkett, Sen. Bastian, Sen. Corder	Early childhood development/education - 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 re- quest - will be reviewed during the interim
S1409 Sponsor: Sen. Sagness	Alternative educ, support units - addresses the intensifying needs of Idaho school districts to provide alternative education programs for at-risk students in grades K-6.	Senate FAILED 14-19-2
S1476 Contact: Matt Freeman, Legislative Services Office	Appropriations - Special Programs, State Board of Education - along with other appropriations, sets aside \$10,000,000 to the Opportunity Scholarship Program Account.	Senate PASSED 28-6-1; House PASSED 62-3-5; Governor signed, Law effective 7/1/08
SCR122 Sponsor: Sen. Keough	School funding formula, study - 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 No hearing held
SCR123 Sponsors: Sen. Schroeder; Rep. Trail	International education, supported - Stating legislative findings and supporting specified international education.	Senate Education Committee; hearing held 2/13/08, sent to 14th order on a Voice vote; returned to committee for redrafting on 2/14/08
SCR134 Sponsor: Sen. Burkett	International education, supported - States legislative findings and supports specified international education.	Senate ADOPTED,voice vote; House FAILED 30-32-8
Family Economic Security		
H0439 Multiple Sponsors*	Income tax credit, groceries - addresses the inadequacies of the current law by incrementally increasing this "Food Tax Credit" starting with an increase to \$55 for the poorest Idahoans, \$30 for all other Idahoans, and an additional \$20 for seniors for tax year 2008. The credit continues to develop each tax year and ties to an index in tax year 2011 and each year thereafter, eventually offsetting, on average, the state sales tax on qualified foods.	Defeated in the House Revenue & Taxation Committee on a 10-8 vote
H0509 Sponsors: Rep. Chew, Rep. Henbest	Idaho Prescription Drug Program - 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 No hearing held
H0521 Sponsor: Rep. Henbest	Health insurance premium increases - 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 No hearing held

Family Economic Security		
H0534 Multiple Sponsors*	Affordable workforce housing - establish the requirement for owners or developers obtaining a residential building permit to develop or ensure the development of affordable workforce housing either onsite or on a site deemed eligible by the governing board.	House Revenue & Taxation Committee Held in committee on 2/20/08 per request of sponsor Rep. Jaquet
H0548 Sponsor: State Treasurer's Office	College Savings Program, revised - 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 65-0-5; Senate PASSED 34-0-1; Governor signed Law effective 7/1/08
H0588 Multiple Sponsors*	Income tax, grocery credit - 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 62-8-0; Senate PASSED 27-8-0; Governor signed, Law effective 1/1/08
S1343 Sponsor: Health & Welfare	Child support, insurance, costs - 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 20-15-0; House PASSED 56-11-3; Governor signed, Law effective 7/1/08



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This legislative report 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 or call 208. 336. 5533 x 233

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