



DAVID S. BENTZ
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
18TH District

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF DELAWARE
LEGISLATIVE HALL
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

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Health & Human Development,
Chair
Policy Analysis & Government
Accountability, Chair
Joint Legislative Oversight &
Sunset, Co-Chair
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Health and Human Development Committee Meeting Minutes

1.22.20

Chair Bentz called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m. Members present included Vice-Chair Seigfried, and Reps. K. Johnson, Baumbach, Heffernan, Minor-Brown, Postles, Shupe and Smith. For a list of guests present, please see the attendance list below.

Rep. Longhurst introduced **HB 285, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF FREE FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS**. This bill requires all public and charter schools which have students in grades 6-12 to provide free feminine hygiene products in 50 percent of the bathrooms used by students who can have a menstrual cycle. This bill also requires schools to publish on its website and post in its common areas the locations of the bathrooms where the hygiene products are provided. Finally, this bill provides that each school must consult with its school nurse regarding the products to be provided.

Rep. Longhurst emphasized that equal access to women's hygiene products and education about reproductive health is crucial in Delaware schools. She shared statistics about how often girls miss school due to a lack of feminine hygiene products, which are often inaccessible for low income students.

Rep. Heffernan mentioned that her friend who is a nurse buys supplies for students who do not have access to feminine hygiene products.

Rep. Baumbach and Rep. K. Johnson thanked Rep. Longhurst for bringing HB 285 forward.

Chair Bentz opened the floor for public comment.

Christine Schiltz on behalf of Christiana Care thanked Rep. Longhurst and submitted a letter of support, please see attachment for details.

Matthew Burday of the Medical Society of Delaware expressed support for HB 285 and thanked legislators for bringing the bill forward.

Melanie Ross Levin, Director of the Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy, expressed support for the bill, especially since it will assist low-income students.

Megan Cavanaugh on behalf of Junior League of Wilmington asked committee members to support House Bill 285. She submitted a letter of support, please see attachment for details.



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Chris Manning, Director of Government Relations at Nemours Children's Health System, thanked legislators for bringing this bill forward and submitted a letter of support for this bill, please see attachment for details.

Executive Director Kendall Massett of DE Charter Schools Network expressed support for the bill.

With permission from the Chair, Rep. Longhurst introduced students and their supporting teacher from Ursuline Academy.

Molly Clark, senior at Ursuline Academy and current director of Change the Cycle, emphasized that the bill is integral to the work their organization does.

Francesca Tusso, Youth Liaison of Change the Cycle, emphasized that the bill was also crucial for transgender boys.

Change the Cycle co-founder Maile Carberry supported the bill.

Ava Lindia supported the bill.

Emily Bryda supported the bill.

Alexa Psaros supported the bill.

Retired educator John Walsh congratulated Rep. Longhurst on the bill and emphasized the need for such legislation.

Rep. Longhurst concluded the discussion by acknowledging Sen. Lockman as the Senate prime for HB 285.

Chair Bentz requested a motion.

A motion was made by Rep. Baumbach and seconded by Rep. Minor-Brown to release HB 285 from committee; motion carried. Yes = 9 (Bentz, Seigfried, Johnson, Baumbach, Heffernan, Minor-Brown, Postles, Shupe, Smith); No = 0; Absent = 3 (Chukwuocha, Briggs King, Hensley). HB 285 was released from committee with a F =3, M = 4, U = 0 vote.

Rep. Williams introduced **HB 268, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 18, AND TITLE 31 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO INSURANCE COVERAGE OF EPINEPHRINE AUTOINJECTORS**. She explained that the bill requires individual, group, State employee, and public assistance insurance plans to provide coverage for epinephrine



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autoinjectors (EpiPens) for individuals who are 18 years of age or under and must include at least 1 formula of epinephrine autoinjectors on the lowest tier of the developed drug formulary and maintained by the carrier if the insurance plan has tiers.

Rep. Williams stated that this bill is an attempt to assist with high prescription drug costs. She shared that the cost to produce an EpiPen is \$30 but the cost to purchase can range from \$110 to \$600. She emphasized that it is a lifesaving tool for people with allergies and explained that about 5.6 million children under the age of 18 have some form of allergy.

Rep. Williams clarified that the bill does not cover self-insured plans. She stated that state employees and retirees currently receive the lowest tier prescriptions and the bill would ensure that the practice would not change.

Rep. K. Johnson thanked Rep. Williams for bringing this bill forward. She explained an EpiPen is a part of her everyday life as her daughter is allergic to several things.

Rep. Smith stated he was happy to have worked on this with Rep. Williams and that it is important to regulate pharmaceutical benefits that affect a lot of people.

Rep. Williams expressed appreciation for his support.

Chair Bentz opened the floor for public comment.

Mathew Burday, President-Elect of the Delaware Medical Society, expressed support for the bill.

Director Chris Manning thanked the committee and submitted a letter of support for the bill. Please see attachment for details.

Rep. Williams stated her plans to introduce an amendment which revises the effective date of the bill to January 21, 2021.

Joann Hasse of the League of Women Voters expressed support for HB 268. She inquired why the effective date is so late.

Pam Price of Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield expressed their support for this bill.

Chair Bentz requested a motion.

A motion was made by Rep. Baumbach and seconded by Rep. K. Johnson to release HB 268 from committee; motion carried. Yes = 8 (Bentz, Seigfried, K. Johnson, Baumbach, Heffernan,



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Postles, Shupe, Smith); No = 0; Absent = 4 (Chukwuocha, Minor-Brown, Briggs King, Hensley)HB 268 was released from committee with a F = 4, M = 3, U = 0 vote.

Chair Bentz introduced **HS 1 for HB 257, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE DELAWARE HEALTH CARE COMMISSION**. This substitute act establishes a Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program for new primary care providers to be administered by the Delaware Health Care Commission. Under the loan repayment program, the Health Care Commission may award education loan repayment grants to new primary care providers of up to \$50,000 per year for a maximum of 4 years. Priority consideration may be given to DIMER-participating students and participants in Delaware based residency programs. Sites eligible to apply for grants on behalf of their new primary care providers must be located in underserved areas or areas of need and must accept Medicare and Medicaid participants. Grants to hospital sites must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the applicant hospital and the disbursement of grants from the program is contingent upon an initial, one-time contribution to the Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program, in a Fiscal Year '21 appropriation of State funds up to a maximum of \$1 million, from Delaware health insurers.

Chair Bentz expressed that this bill aims to make more people interested in primary care jobs in DE. He explained that eligible recipients include but are not limited to practitioners of family medicine and internal medicine, pediatricians, obstetricians, nurse practitioners, midwives, and physician assistants.

Chair Bentz commended Rep. Shupe as a key contributor to working on the bill.

Rep. Shupe thanked Chair Bentz for his leadership.

Rep. Smith expressed his full support of HS 1 for HB 257 and asked to expand it to cover nurse practitioners.

Chair Bentz clarified that nurse practitioners are eligible.

Chair Bentz opened the floor for public comment.

Wayne Smith on behalf of the Delaware Healthcare Association explained that the legislation is key to ensure that underserved communities' needs are served, since the dwindling access to primary care is critical and the bill helps to lower costs and provide more health care equity distribution throughout the state. He concluded his remarks by emphasizing that Highmark,



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AmeriHealth and Aetna are partners for the legislation and that several healthcare companies stand to benefit.

Joann Hasse, of the Delaware League of Women Voters, expressed strong support for the bill and urged the state to use their budgetary process to make this work.

Dr. Kara Walker, Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services, stated the goal is to ensure that recently graduated medical students look to Delaware as a place to work and recruit talent back to primary care in the state.

Pam Price said that Highmark is very excited and fully in support of the bill.

Matthew Burday Chair of Government Affairs Committee for the Delaware Medical Society thanked Chair Bentz and Rep. Shupe for bringing the bill forward.

Chair Bentz requested a motion.

A motion was made by Rep. Baumbach and seconded by Rep. Shupe to release HS 1 for HB 257 from committee; motion carried. Yes = 8 (Bentz, Seigfried, Johnson, Baumbach, Heffernan, Postles, Shupe, Smith); No = 0; Absent = 4 (Chukwuocha, Minor-Brown, Briggs King, Hensley). HS 1 for HB 257 was released from committee with a F =0, M =8, U = 0 vote.

Chair Bentz introduced **SB 200 w/ SA 1, AN ACT TO AMEND THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE DELAWARE HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK**. This Act supports the ongoing work of the Primary Care Reform Collaborative to achieve better health for Delawareans at a lower cost by facilitating the sharing of de-identified health expenditure information and fostering transparency that is critical to the effective delivery of primary care in Delaware. Specifically, this Act requires the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) to provide access to the Delaware Health Care Claims Database to 2 additional state agencies, the Department of Insurance, and Delaware Health Care Commission. Chair Bentz opened the floor for public comment. Seeing none, he requested a motion.

A motion was made by Rep. Baumbach and seconded by Rep. Heffernan to release SB 200 with SA 1 from committee; motion carried. Yes = 8 (Bentz, Seigfried, Johnson, Baumbach, Heffernan, Postles, Shupe, Smith); No = 0; Absent = 4 (Chukwuocha, Minor-Brown, Briggs King, Hensley). SB 200 w/ SA 1 was released from committee with a F=2, M=5, U=0 vote.

Chair Bentz adjourned the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:



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Simone Adkins

Speaker List

Christine Schiltz, Director at Parkowski, Guerke & Swayze on behalf of Christiana Care
Matthew Burday, Chair of Government Affairs Committee for the Delaware Medical Society
Melanie Ross Levin, Director of Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy
Megan Cavanaugh, Community Impact Committee Chair for Junior League of Wilmington
Chris Manning, Director of Government Relations at Nemours Children's Health System
Kendall Massett, Executive Director for Delaware Charter Schools Network
Molly Clark, student at Ursuline Academy and current Director for Change the Cycle
Francesca Tusso, student at Ursuline Academy, Youth Liaison for Change the Cycle
Maile Carberry – student at Ursuline Academy and Co-founder of Change the Cycle
Ava Lindia- student at Ursuline Academy
Emily Bryda – student at Ursuline Academy
Alexa Psaros – student at Ursuline Academy
John Walsh, retired educator
Joann Hasse, Healthcare Chair, DE League of Women Voters
Pam Price, Senior Government Affairs Representative, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield