## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46

## BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE TO CONVENE A COUNCIL TO COORDINATE AND DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF STANDARDS, POLICIES, RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE USE OF TELEHEALTH AND TELEMEDICINE IN IDAHO.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, telehealth is a mode of delivering health care services that uses information and communication technologies to enable the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management and self-management of patients at a distance from health providers; and

WHEREAS, telemedicine is the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications to improve a patient's health status; and

WHEREAS, 35 of Idaho's 44 counties are rural or frontier, and many areas have limited access to specialty care; and

WHEREAS, telehealth and telemedicine can provide a wide variety of inpatient, outpatient and emergency services throughout the state while rural hospitals remain financially viable because patient revenues remain in the community; and

WHEREAS, with telemedicine and telehealth, patients receive appropriate and timely access to specialty services, thereby reducing costs as focus switches to prevention and improved management; and

WHEREAS, telehealth and telemedicine can result in significant savings to patients and payors by avoiding travel costs, duplication of tests and loss of work time; and

WHEREAS, rural Idaho continues to face challenges recruiting and retaining physicians, telehealth and telemedicine will play an increasingly important role; and

WHEREAS, Idaho needs consistent standards, policies and procedures to ensure proper use and security for telehealth and telemedicine.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare should convene a council to coordinate and develop a comprehensive set of standards, policies, rules and procedures for the use of telehealth and telemedicine in Idaho.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department shall include a broad stake-holder base in the membership of the council including, but not limited to, physicians in rural and urban areas familiar with the use of telehealth or telemedicine, hospital administrators in rural and urban areas, a representative of health insurance carriers in this state, a representative from the Bureau of Occupational Licenses, a representative from the Idaho Hospital Association, a member of the State of Idaho Board of Medicine, a representa-

- tive from Idaho's State Hospitals and a representative from the Department of Health and Welfare.