

2016 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 7

OPTIMIZE REIMBURSEMENTS TO THE SCHOOL-BASED MEDICAID PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the federal Individual with Disabilities Act (IDEA) governs all state and local education agencies (LEAs) that provide specially designed instructional services to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of three and twenty-one to receive special education and health-related services under Part B of IDEA; and

WHEREAS, school districts are simultaneously facing tighter budgets and growing populations of children with special needs; and

WHEREAS, the federal government will reimburse with federal, not state, Medicaid dollars, 70% of school districts' expenditures on health-related services for eligible children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, state and local education dollars are spent to fund this program where federal dollars are available for reimbursement but are not being fully accessed; and

WHEREAS, in January, 2013 the Idaho School Boards Association and the Idaho Association of School Administrators co-signed a letter to the regional Medicaid Services director, asking for "guidance and intervention" into Idaho's lack of an interagency agreement between the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) and the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) specific to this program; and

WHEREAS, the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DHW and the SDE does not provide effective and appropriate guidance for the School-Based Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that between \$10 million and \$40 million of federal reimbursements to Idaho's School Based Medicaid Program are going unclaimed annually by Idaho school districts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Schools Boards Association will work with the Idaho Legislature and other stakeholders to ensure that districts can fully optimize federal reimbursements to the School-Based Medicaid Program.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In recent years, school district special education personnel have been forced to shift their focus away from students and instead spend precious resources on burdensome – and in some cases, unique – regulations associated with the School-Based Medicaid Program. The Idaho School Boards Association is concerned that the needs of school children and special education teachers are not being met with respect to this program, due in part to a lack of funding. With millions of reimbursement dollars available, Idaho should be incentivizing districts to maximize those reimbursements, not discouraging participation.

Submitted by Twin Falls School District No. 411

Submitted by American Falls School District No. 318

Submitted by Jerome School District No. 261

PASSED

AYES	3783
NAYES	12
TOTAL	3795