

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ENCOURAGING THE STATE BOARD OF EDU-
3 CATION TO REQUEST FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL SLOTS FOR IDAHO STUDENTS PUR-
4 SUING A MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE WWAMI REGIONAL MEDICAL EDUCATION PRO-
5 GRAM.

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

7 WHEREAS, 98.7% of Idaho is designated as a primary care health profes-
8 sional shortage area by the federal government; and

9 WHEREAS, among Idaho counties, only Ada and Blaine are not considered
10 primary care health professional shortage areas; and

11 WHEREAS, as of 2018, Idaho had only 192.6 active physicians per 100,000
12 population, ranking 49th among the states, compared to a rate of 449.5 active
13 physicians per 100,000 population in Massachusetts, which ranked first; and

14 WHEREAS, physician shortages can be associated with poorer health out-
15 comes and an increase in premature and preventable deaths; and

16 WHEREAS, one purpose of the WWAMI Regional Medical Education Program is
17 to increase the number of practicing physicians, particularly primary care
18 physicians, in the five member states of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Mon-
19 tana, and Idaho; and

20 WHEREAS, Idaho currently supports a cohort of 40 Idaho students in the
21 WWAMI program each year; and

22 WHEREAS, investing in additional Idaho WWAMI slots is a key part of the
23 solution to alleviating Idaho's physician shortage.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
25 Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
26 and the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature encourages the State
27 Board of Education to request funding for five additional WWAMI slots for
28 Idaho students beginning in fiscal year 2025.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages the State Board
30 of Education to request another five WWAMI slots for Idaho students begin-
31 ning in fiscal year 2027.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, subject to available funding, it is the
33 Legislature's goal to fund a cohort of at least 50 Idaho students in WWAMI per
34 year, with the increased slots established and funded in two phases.