

Governor's Signing Ceremony for the Idaho Health Care Directive Registry

Representatives from A Better Way Coalition participated in a signing ceremony in Governor Kempthorne's Office on March 15, 2006 that created an Idaho Health Care Directive Registry. When the Registry is established, people in Idaho will be able to place their living will and durable power of attorney for health care (advance directives) in the Registry and receive a special code. With permission from the patient and this code, any health care provider will be able to access the advance directive, reducing the time it takes to retrieve this important information in life threatening situations. The Registry will be housed and managed in the office of the Secretary of State.

During the signing ceremony the Coalition was recognized for our role in researching the need and identifying possible models for an Idaho registry during the 2004 - 2005 program year. We will keep you posted on the development of the Registry as it unfolds from the office of Ben Ysursa, Secretary of State.

Thank you to the members of A Better Way Coalition Advance Care Planning Committee who participated in the research and discussion about the need for a statewide registry and to AARP Idaho for championing the legislation during the 2006 Legislative Session!

Sister Patricia Mulvaney & Jill Anderson - Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Kelly Buckland - State Independent Living Council, Bill von Tagen - Deputy Attorney General, Mary Floyd - State Veteran's Home, Peter Sisson - Elder & Disability Law Attorney, Robert Aldridge - Elder Law Attorney, Cheryl Tussey - AARP Idaho, Ron Hodge - Idaho Medical Association, Robert Ancker - Palliative Care Physician, Doug Kempe - Guardian Home Health & Hospice, Kim Martz - Nurse Educator, Magdalena Donaldson - Interpreter, Kevin Clifford - Palliative Care Physician, Tambra Hunter - Social Worker; Annette Totten - Center for the Study of Aging, Marilyn Bischoff - Extension Office, Paul Weil - North Idaho End-of-Life Community Coalition, Patrece Meza - Magic Valley Palliative Care Coalition, Wayne Denney & Carolyn Thrasher - EMS Bureau, Joseph Newcomer - Mercy Hospice, Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker - Committee Chair

Special thanks goes to Barbara Volk-Craft and the Arizona statewide end of life coalition - Caring Choices - for sharing their legislation and providing insight and assistance!

A Better Way Coalition Leadership Team

Robert Vande Merwe, Idaho Health Care Association
Cathy McDougall, AARP Idaho
Paul Weil, Idaho State Hospice Organization
Kennette McWilliams, National Association of Social Workers, Idaho
Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker, Executive Director

HOUSE BILL NO. 468

HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE (Living Will) REGISTRY

<http://www3.state.id.us/oasis/H0468.html>

This legislation creates a health care directive registry within the Office of the Secretary of State. It does this by creating a new code section, Idaho Code 39 -4515.

The health care directive registry would contain copies of an individual's living will and durable power of attorney. Individuals who register these documents with the

Secretary of State would each be given an individual password, which would allow them to access their documents from the health care directive registry.

They could choose to share their password with a hospital, physician, family member, or friend...