

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. ____

BY _____ COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION STATING THE LEGISLATURE’S FINDINGS REGARDING THE WWAMI REGIONAL MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM; EXPRESSING CONCERNS ABOUT THE INFLUENCE OF DEI AND GENDER IDEOLOGY IN MEDICAL EDUCATION; URGING WWAMI TO ALIGN WITH IDAHO’S MERIT-BASED AND SCIENTIFIC STANDARDS; AND DECLARING THAT FUTURE PARTICIPATION WILL DEPEND ON SUCH ALIGNMENT.

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

WHEREAS, the Idaho WWAMI is a partnership between the University of Washington School of Medicine and the states of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho (WWAMI); and

WHEREAS, since 1972, this partnership has been training Idaho citizens accepted into the program at the University of Idaho, reflecting over 50 years of investments by the State of Idaho and by donors to the University of Idaho who support scholarships and facilities for the program; and

WHEREAS, the first 18 months, known as the Foundations Phase, take place in Moscow, followed by the Clinical Phase, where students work with healthcare professionals to gain hands-on experience in rural and urban settings throughout Idaho and the WWAMI region through 6-8 week rotations; and

WHEREAS, the state acknowledges the valuable role that the program plays in securing physicians for the state, as evidenced by the 51% of WWAMI graduates who return to practice in Idaho following their residency program—a rate well above the national average of 39%; and

WHEREAS, the state anticipates that there will be additional gains in the number of graduates returning to practice in Idaho as the “tuition payback” program goes into effect; and

WHEREAS, Idaho has a compelling interest in ensuring that this significant public and private investment reflects Idaho’s expectations of merit, professionalism, scientific rigor, and respect for student viewpoint diversity; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM), which provides core instruction and oversight for WWAMI students, incorporates diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) principles into admissions, curriculum, and institutional practices; and

WHEREAS, Idaho is concerned that DEI-oriented criteria, race-conscious considerations,

gender ideology, or other non-scientific social frameworks may influence admissions decisions, required coursework, or student evaluations; and

WHEREAS, Idaho students and applicants should be assessed based on academic achievement, clinical aptitude, integrity, and readiness to serve patients—not on ideological viewpoints or demographic characteristics; and

WHEREAS, Idaho-funded medical education should focus on biological science, evidence-based practice, and ethical patient care, and should not require students to adopt or internalize contested ideological concepts; and

WHEREAS, maintaining public confidence in the WWAMI partnership requires clear assurance that Idaho students receive a merit-based, politically neutral medical education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that:

1. The Idaho Legislature affirms the value of the WWAMI partnership provided that the program aligns with Idaho’s expectations for merit-based admissions, scientific neutrality, and professional integrity.
2. The Legislature urges UWSOM and Idaho WWAMI leadership to:
 - (a) Review and revise admissions criteria to ensure Idaho applicants are evaluated solely on merit and professional qualifications;
 - (b) Remove admissions prompts or evaluation tools that function as ideological inquiries or require affirmation of DEI-based or gender-ideology frameworks;
 - (c) Audit required coursework, clerkships, and training modules to ensure instruction is grounded in scientific principles rather than political or ideological priorities; and
 - (d) Provide written documentation to Idaho’s State Board of Education and appropriate legislative committees outlining steps taken to align the program with Idaho standards.
3. The Legislature directs the Idaho State Board of Education and the University of Idaho to review WWAMI agreements and recommend any necessary revisions to ensure the program complies fully with Idaho law and the legislative expectations set forth in this resolution.
4. The Legislature declares that Idaho’s continued participation in and funding for WWAMI

will take into account the program's responsiveness to the concerns and expectations set forth in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit copies of this resolution to the Idaho State Board of Education, the President of the University of Idaho, and the Dean of the University of Washington School of Medicine.