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**Bill: HB 298 – Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel Insurance Program Amendments**

Sponsor: Representative Douglas R. Welton  
Floor Sponsor: Senator Michael K. McKell  
**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill amends provisions regarding the Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel Insurance Program.

Discussion: The sponsor explained that the Bill expands eligibility for the Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel Insurance Program, allowing additional municipalities to participate. It extends state benefits and access to qualifying communities in second-class counties, aligning them with the benefits already available to third- through sixth-class counties. No further discussion followed.

Yeas: 5  
Nays: 0  
N/V: 2

**Outcome: HB 298 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

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**Bill: 1st substitute HB 400 – Blood Transfusion Amendments**

Sponsor: Representative Kristen Chevrier  
Floor Sponsor: Senator Keven J. Stratton  
**UASD Position: Tracking**

This Bill addresses blood transfusions.

Discussion: As presented by the sponsor, this Bill generally prohibits a health care facility or provider from preventing a patient from using their own blood product or a blood product from a directed donor for any potential transfusion related to their health care, except in certain circumstances. It also grants immunity from liability to health care providers and facilities in the event of a patient's injury, damages, or death resulting from a transfusion involving blood products provided by the patient. The sponsor introduced two members of the public, Katie Gregory and Helen Watts, who shared personal experiences about needing their own blood for major surgeries.

Senator Plumb spoke in favor of the Bill, emphasizing its impact in trauma situations. Senator Thatcher asked whether medical facilities or doctors could face additional risks if complications arose from a transfusion. The sponsor did not have a precise answer but noted that all blood donation carries some level of risk. Senator Plumb added that doctors and facilities would generally be protected, though she acknowledged that she did not fully understand all of the

Bill's legal implications. Senator Escamilla recommended adding an educational component to help the public better understand blood donation safety and usage. Senator Thatcher agreed with this recommendation. The sponsor expressed support for including an education provision but clarified that she did not intend for the Bill to suggest that the general blood supply is unsafe. Senator Stratton spoke in favor of the Bill. No further discussion followed.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

**Outcome: 1st substitute HB 400 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**