

Hello Sublette County and LaBarge, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you on January 25th. We are mid-way through the third week of the 2023 General Session of the 67th Legislature. New bills are getting filed daily, and I encourage the public to go to the Wyoming Legislative website to view the bills. <https://wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2023>

Today, the House continued the debate on [HB0034 - School finance-mental health services](#). As I mentioned in yesterday's press release, there is a critical need in our Wyoming communities to help our students with access to mental health resources. The grant program outlined in this bill would allow school districts to apply for grants to assist students with mental health needs.

Three amendments were brought on the 2nd Reading of the bill. The first amendment would have reduced the funding available for each district from \$120,000 to \$30,000 plus \$44.35 for each student enrolled in the program. This amendment failed. The second amendment requires school districts to consult and collaborate with a broader stakeholder base before a proposal is submitted. Working with all stakeholders is a good idea, and I supported this amendment. This amendment passed. The third amendment would have moved the grant administration from the Department of Education to the Department of Health. This amendment failed. The bill moves on to 3rd Reading with my support.

We spent the afternoon working bills in the Committee of the Whole. I will highlight two:

[HB0104 - Hunting of predatory animals-amendments](#). Currently, predatory animals may be taken with the aid of an artificial light or lighting device. This bill adds the ability to include thermal or infrared imaging or other light imaging as specified by Game and Fish Commission rules. This bill moves on to 2nd Reading.

[HB0111 - Endangering children-fentanyl](#) is a simple but important bill that would add fentanyl to the list of controlled substances that qualify as a child endangerment offense. We heard

testimony that fentanyl is increasing in use across the State, including accidental overdoses. I support this bill, and the bill moved on to 2nd Reading.

I can be reached at [albert@albertsommers.com](mailto:albert@albertsommers.com) with questions or comments. Thank you.