

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1625

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

3-26

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION concerning a special program voucher.

WHEREAS, There are many individuals with special needs for which the state of Kansas is giving or would give assistance; and

WHEREAS, The cost of providing state assistance to such individuals continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, The economic pressures on the state budget make it increasingly harder to meet state needs; and

WHEREAS, The state needs to establish more and better alternatives to meet the demands for assistance to individuals with special needs and ease the strain on the state budget; and

WHEREAS, The special needs individual and such individual's family should have the freedom to choose, wherever reasonably possible, to self-direct their services: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Representatives concurring therein: That we urge the state to have a qualified representative of each agency calculate what services would be provided to a special needs individual and the cost to the state for such assistance; and

Be it further resolved: That the state of Kansas establish a special voucher program wherein such individual or such individual's family would be given the opportunity to receive the state offered services or a voucher for 80% of whatever the calculated amount of the cost would be to the state agency delivering the services; and

Be it further resolved: That if such individual or such individual's family chooses the 80% voucher, such individual or such individual's family could use the funds to seek alternative services that such individual or such individual's family feels might best serve such individual's needs; and

Be it further resolved: That such individual's family may choose to deliver some of the services themselves or pay for services of equal or higher quality but of less duration of time; and

Be it further resolved: That if the special needs individual no longer needs services as a result of death, partial remedy or other circumstance,

1 the state shall establish a formula for a prorated return of the funds al-
2 ready received but not used or create a system of regular voucher pay-
3 ments of short duration of time so that refunding would be unnecessary;
4 and

5 *Be it further resolved:* That the 20% of state moneys saved by the
6 state agency shall remain in the state agency from which the 80% funds
7 came. The 20% saved shall be used by the agency to deliver services to
8 other individuals needing services from such agency; and

9 *Be it further resolved:* That it is not intended that a special needs
10 individual or such individual's family be penalized should the voucher
11 system not work satisfactorily for that individual and such individual opts
12 to return to using the state assistance; and

13 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation
14 Services report to the Governor and the Legislature in January of the
15 2003 legislative session regarding any progress made in regards to imple-
16 menting this resolution; and

17 *Be it further resolved:* That the members of the Kansas Congressional
18 Delegation upon receipt of a copy of this resolution be instructed to
19 develop legislation that will encourage implementation and funding of
20 this resolution on the federal level; and

21 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State is directed to send
22 enrolled copies of this resolution to the Governor, state agencies which
23 deliver services to individuals in Kansas and each member of the Kansas
24 Congressional Delegation.

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