

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Representative Don Crumbaker at  
Chairperson

3:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on March 21, 1983 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Leach who was excused

## Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes  
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research  
Dale Dennis, State Department of Education  
JoAnn Mann, Secretary to the Committee

## Conferees appearing before the committee:

Bob Harvey, Kansas Alliance for Special Education  
Joan Wesselowski, Kansas Association of Rehabilitation Facilities  
Frank Strada, Board Member of Kansas Alliance for Special Education  
John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Ethel May Miller, Kansas Association for Retarded Citizens  
Elizabeth Taylor, Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children  
Bill Dirks, Wichita USD 259  
Onan Burnett, USD 501  
Charles Johns, Kansas-National Education Association

HCR 5029 - A Concurrent Resolution urging support of education programs for preschool handicapped children.

Bob Harvey, KASE, told the Committee they were not asking for a mandate, realizing the financial crisis of the State. The purpose of the Resolution was to direct the Kansas State Department of Education and the State Board of Education to make long-range plans for special education for the preschool handicapped children. He said preschool is needed and their ultimate goal was that they "must" have it. A copy of his testimony is attached. (Attachment A)

Joan Wesselowski, Kansas Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, urged adoption of HCR 5029 urging the State Board of Education to continue their support of programs presently serving preschool handicapped children. A copy of her testimony is attached and made a part of these minutes. (Attachment B)

Frank Strada, board member of Kansas Alliance for Special Education, said he felt providing preschool education for the handicapped is a way of planning ahead--investing for the future. A copy of his testimony is attached. (Attachment C)

John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards, said very few boards are not aware of the importance of preschool special education. He realized the long-term benefits but was concerned regarding the financial responsibility. He felt the Governor's Task Force was the logical avenue and that regardless of where it ends up, someone will be responsible for the cost.

Ethel May Miller, Kansas Association for Retarded Citizens, supported HCR 5029 and said she was aware of the need for preschool special education. In many cases where early help has been advised, the help is not available. She urged the committee to support the Resolution.

Elizabeth Taylor, Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children, supported the Resolution.

Bill Dirks, Wichita USD 259, supported HCR 5029 and emphasized the need for early special education for the preschool handicapped.

Onan Burnett, USD 501 endorsed the concept.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,  
room 423-S, Statehouse, at 3:30 ~~a.m.~~/p.m. on March 21, 1983.

Charles Johns, Kansas-National Education Association, supported HCR 5029 stating he had worked in the field and had seen the advantages in early help for the preschool handicapped. He urged committee support.

SB 80 - School district finance, appeals to exceed budget limitations for operation of originally federally financed programs.

Representative Lowther made a conceptual motion to amend to leave in Section 6 and 7 and insert the provision which would allow boards to appeal for an additional increase in their budget for salaries of classroom teachers. Representative Reardon seconded and the motion carried.

Representative Lowther moved that SB 80 be reported favorably as amended and Representative Hassler seconded.

Representative Apt made a substitute conceptual amendment to limit the amount of the appeal to the amount of federal funds available to the district immediately prior to the appeal. Representative Moomaw seconded and the motion carried.

Representative Reardon moved to report SB 80 favorably as amended. Representative Lowther seconded and the motion carried.

SB 79 - Boards of education of unified school districts, disqualification for office.

Representative Fuller made a motion to reconsider action on SB 79 and Representative Miller seconded. The motion carried.

The motion to report SB 79 adversely failed.

Representative Myers moved to adjourn and Representative Reardon seconded. The motion failed.

Representative Moomaw made a motion to amend on line 27 and insert "full-time employee". Representative Apt seconded and the motion failed.

Representative Brady made a motion to adjourn and Representative Helgerson seconded. The motion failed.

Representative Fuller moved to report SB 79 favorably and Representative Miller seconded. The motion failed.

The meeting was adjourned.

KANSAS ALLIANCE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION, INC.

TO: Kansas House Education Committee

RE: HCR 5029 - Special Education Preschool

My name is Robert Harvey, and as the President of the Kansas Alliance for Special Education, and a parent of two handicapped children I would like to offer our organizations' and my personal support for HCR 5029.

The secret of preschool education for handicapped children has long been known; it saves money in the long run, and it provides these children with a greater opportunity to reach their own optimum level of growth.

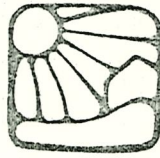
My own two children began their formal education at the age of six months, while we lived in the State of New York. Upon arriving here in Kansas three years ago we found that both children were ahead of their age group in educational progress. My children are not brighter than other children, they were simply allowed the opportunity to learn.

While HCR 5029 does not mandate Special Education Preschool, it does begin to pave the way for other handicapped children. This resolution will direct those in the State Department of Education and the State Board of Education to formulate plans for implementation when the financial picture of this state is in a clearer picture. If we were to wait for the monies to develop the plans, the delay in implementation could mean waiting several years.

Many within the State of Kansas have long sought pre-school education, many have seen its long term effects on our children and on our State. These individuals and groups need to be commended for their dedication and persistence.

Many in the Special Education spectrum, from parents to professionals are looking with worried eyes to Topeka, especially this year, with thoughts that the programs already established will be cut back. Evidence of cut backs in special education are legion; normally the first items to be cut in school budgets. This resolution would express the concern of the Kansas legislature, and its desire to maintain what we already have in the way of handicapped preschool.

We of the Kansas Alliance for Special Education are fully aware of the financial hardships and difficult decisions faced by the members of this body. On the same thought, however, we have also faced hard decisions, by delaying our goals for total mandating of pre-school, we have allowed another group of children to go without needed services. We are realistic. We know it is not physically possible. But we can ask for your support for what is their, we can ask for your concern for our children, we can ask that you look farther down the road when we can provide for these children. This resolution will help.



# Kansas Association of Rehabilitation Facilities

TownCenter Building 120 West Sixth, Suite 110  
Newton, KS 67114 316-284-2330

To : House Education Committee  
From: Kansas Association of Rehabilitation Facilities  
Re : HRC 5029  
Date: March 21, 1983

## 1.0 Identity and purpose of Kansas Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (KARF)

- 1.1 KARF is an association of thirty (30) member agencies throughout Kansas that serve approximately 4,900 disabled children 0-6 and adults, annually with a collective budget of approximately \$23 million.
- 1.2 KARF agencies provide community-based programs and services, such as infant and early childhood development programs, vocational evaluation, work activity, work adjustment, sheltered employment, placement, projects with industry programs, and personal social development group living, supervised living and independent living programs.

## 2.0 Position statement on HCR 5029

- 2.1 KARF urges adoption of HCR 5029, a concurrent resolution urging the State Board of Education to continue their support of programs presently serving preschool handicapped children and to adopt a long range plan for meeting the needs of all preschool handicapped children in Kansas.

3.0 Justification

- 3.1 There needs to be continued fiscal support by the State Board of Education and Legislature of programs presently serving preschool handicapped children.
- 3.2 The present situation will continue until a long range plan for meeting the needs of all preschool handicapped children in Kansas is addressed by the State Board of Education, the Governor, and the Legislature.
- 3.3 Community mental retardation programs that are currently serving preschool handicapped children in Kansas are also facing financial constraints that could jeopardize the existence of some of these programs if there is not an intent, a plan, or financial support for these programs in the state.
- 3.4 The Resolution provides for the establishment of responsibility for these programs with the State Board of Education.
- 3.5 Currently, preschool handicapped children are receiving services in some parts of the state of Kansas and others are receiving no services. This would be the first step to equalize services.



To: Education Commission

Re: House Concurrent Resolution No. 5029  
(Preschool education for the handicapped)

My name is Frank Strada. I am a board member of the Kansas Alliance for Special Education; the parent of a gifted child in Clathe; a teacher of Personal & Social Adjustment, also in Clathe; a member of the Council for Exceptional Children; and a building representative with the Clathe-National Education Association.

My purpose in attending this hearing and speaking to you today is to help bring your attention to the needs of handicapped children in the state of Kansas as outlined in HCR 5029. To me, providing preschool education for the handicapped is a way of planning ahead - investing for the future. To wait up to four or five years after a child's handicap is discovered, to do anything about it, is to waste valuable time and, in the long run, to spend more money. Not only are these first four or five years of life valuable for the child, but intervention during these years will save the taxpayer money down the road. Preschool education will decrease the need for the most restrictive environments, such as institutions and self-contained classrooms; and will increase the chances of a child eventually becoming a contributing member of our society - a tax payer, rather than a tax spender. For these reasons I urge you to support the House Concurrent Resolution No. 5029. Its support can help point the way for the state legislature and the state Board of Education to provide for the needs of the handicapped.