

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANSThe meeting was called to order by Senator Paul Hess at _____
Chairperson11:00 a.m./p.m. on February 18, 1983, 19__ in room 123-S of the Capitol.All members were present except:
Senators Doyen and Harder

Committee staff present:

Research Department: Marlin Rein, Sherry Brown, Mary Galligan, Ed Ahrens
Revisor's Office: Norman Furse
Committee: Mark Skinner, Doris Fager

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rick von Ende, Executive Secretary, University of Kansas
Dave Dallam, Budget DivisionSB 282 - Medical Scholarships

Mr. von Ende appeared to express opposition to SB 282. He suggested that the recommendation to discontinue medical scholarships may be premature. He gave a short history of the medical scholarship program. He added that, prior to this year, about 75% of the students in the medical school have been on the program.

Mr. von Ende continued by explaining that some of the University of Kansas staff has developed a study of the supply of health care providers in the state, and said that he would provide copies of the study to committee members at a later date. He gave some statistics from the study, and concluded by stating that it reflects what has happened in medical schools generally--there are more specialties and less family practice.

Mr. von Ende suggested that the time will come when the medical scholarship program can be phased out. At the present time, it provides an opportunity to the state to secure the services of physicians to meet its needs. According to Mr. von Ende, the first group of students who used the medical scholarship program are still in residency. They are locating in areas around the state. Mr. von Ende noted that, in his opinion, the scholarship program is a no-loss situation--either the state gets the physicians or all its money back. He concluded by urging the committee to reject SB 282.

There were questions from committee members, including one from Senator Werts concerning whether the KU study and tabulation included medical doctors practicing at federal installations. Mr. von Ende replied that, if the physicians are licensed to practice in Kansas, they are included. He added that doctors at federal installations do not always get a Kansas license.

Senator Steineger suggested that scholarships might be given only to primary care or family practice physicians. Mr. von Ende explained that would be difficult because students do not decide until their senior year what their specialty will be. In answer to a question from Senator Steineger about the number of physicians going into primary care, Mr. von Ende said he would attempt to get that figure.

Senator McCray expressed concern about the upgrading of nurse practitioners and physicians assistants, noting that it was his understanding this would alleviate the need for as many physicians as before. Mr. von Ende replied that he would like to believe that there can be some sort of structure of health care that provides optimum utilization of talents of all people involved in the field.

Senator Bogina questioned Mr. von Ende about repayment of scholarships if the physician decides not to practice in the underserved area or in Kansas. Mr. von Ende said there are seven physicians practicing in the state who are now in default, and there is one graduate who is not fulfilling his obligation, and the medical school is now attempting to locate that student. According to Mr. von Ende, the repayments go into the State General Fund.

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Senator Hess asked if someone from the Executive Branch of Government would like to comment on the bill. Mr. Dallam said the bill follows the Governor's recommendation. He explained that a study had been made by the Department of Health and Environment about physician supplies in the state. The overall ratio is now 156.1 as compared to 124.1 in 1978, so the total ratio of physicians to population has increased even though the medical scholarship program has not started to release people into the physician supply. One of the conclusions of the Department of Health and Environment report is that the supply of doctors in the program now--something over 800 or 900--should be sufficient to alleviate a great deal of the under-supply problems in the state.

Mr. Rein noted that there are some issues being confronted with the first class of 1979 that were not anticipated at the time the original bills were passed. To cite some examples, Mr. Rein noted that there are two family physicians practicing in the state who thought they were satisfying their obligations and then found themselves in an area which is no longer considered underserved. Mr. Rein suggested that there are other problems with the program, and if it is to be continued, those problems should be addressed so that the program is fair to both the state and the individuals in the program. He said there is a problem about who should administer the act--the University of Kansas or some other entity.

Chairman Hess appointed the following subcommittee to study SB 282 and the problems within the medical scholarship program, and asked that they report to the full committee within a week: Senator Gaines, Chairman; Senator Bogina; Senator Werts.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.