

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONThe meeting was called to order by Representative Don Crumbaker at  
Chairperson3:30 ~~am~~ p.m. on February 14, 1984 in room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Leach, who was excused.

## Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes' Office  
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research  
Judy Crapser, Secretary to the Committee

## Conferees appearing before the committee:

Merle Hill, Kansas Association of Community Colleges  
Representative Marvin Smith  
Joan Hrenchir, Monmouth Township  
Fred Allen, Kansas Association of Counties  
David O. Smith, Miami County Commissioner  
Ed Wolbourn, Washburn University  
Dr. James Downing, Barton County Community College  
Gary Deeter, Topeka citizen

The minutes of February 8 and February 9, 1984 were approved as written.

The Chairman opened the hearing for HB 2731 which would increase the per credit hour rates for Community Colleges.Merle Hill, Executive Director of Kansas Association of Community Colleges, testified in support of HB 2731. (ATTACHMENT I)That being the only conferee for HB 2731, the Chair opened hearings on HB 2840 which affects the out-district tuition, state aid and credit hour state aid of postsecondary educational institutions by increasing the enrollment reporting period from five weeks to mid-semester.Representative Marvin Smith presented HB 2840. (ATTACHMENT II) He stated that his County Commissioners of Holton County were very concerned with the current methods.Mrs. Joan Hrenchir, volunteer out-district tuition auditor for Monmouth Township, testified in support of HB 2840. (ATTACHMENT III) She stated that Washburn University had amended the amount due when shown the credit hour discrepancy between figures on subsequent reports. (ATTACHMENT IV) crediting Monmouth Township \$2,100.Fred Allen, Kansas Association of Counties, testified in support of HB 2840. He suggested payment for out-district would be more favorable on completed courses verses the present date of student count at five weeks.David O. Smith, Miami County Commissioner, testified in support of HB 2840. He related knowing of situations where courses were started and then dropped, but the County had to pay regardless. Their preference would be for payment on completion of courses.Ed Wolbourn, Washburn University, testified in opposition of HB 2840. He stated he was appearing for President John L. Green. (ATTACHMENT V)Merle Hill, Executive Director of Kansas Association of Community Colleges, testified in opposition of HB 2840. (ATTACHMENT VI)Dr. James Downing, Barton County Community College, testified in opposition of HB 2840. He stated the out-district billing was based on student supplied information, and it was to the institutions advantage for a student to complete the enrolled courses. However, because of various legitimate reasons, it is not always possible or practical for the student to continue with the original schedule. The cost factor would remain the same for the course whether the student dropped or not.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,  
room 313-S, Statehouse, at 3:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on February 14, 19 84

Representative Apt requested copies of the forms required from Washburn University and the Community Colleges. The conferees present stated they would be happy to provide those for the committee.

This concluded the hearing for HB 2840. The Chairman stated the scheduled hearing for HB 2884 was asked to be withheld for now by the bill's sponsor because of a problem that would effect SRS losing a considerable amount of money through Title 19.

The Chair did recognize Gary Deeter of Topeka who was in attendance on this date to appear as a proponent of HB 2884. (ATTACHMENT VII)

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 4:55 p.m.

The next meeting of the committee will be February 15, 1984 at 3:30 p.m.





# KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Columbian Title Bldg., 820 Quincy • Topeka 66612 • Phone 913-357-5156

W. Merle Hill  
Executive Director

To: House Education Committee

From: Merle Hill, Executive Director  
Kansas Association of Community Colleges *MH*

Date: February 14, 1984

Subj: House Bill No. 2731: An act concerning community colleges;  
relating to student tuition; increasing rates per credit hour  
authorized to be charged and collected; amending K.S.A. 1983  
Supp. 71-301 and repealing the existing section.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I appear before you today to request favorable action on House Bill No. 2731 by the House Education Committee. This bill requests authorization for the community college boards of trustees to increase tuition charges per credit hour from the current range of \$10-15 to a range of \$12-\$18, a 20% increase. The \$10-\$15 range was established in 1980.

You are aware that tuition charges and local ad valorem taxes are the two sources of revenue over which local boards have some control. Local mill levies in community college counties have increased an average of 28% since 1981 and range from a low of 10.73 mills (Garden City Community College) to a high of 31.53 mills (Highland Community College). To increase the tuition range, however, legislation is required.

Although inflation was only about 3% in 1983, it was nearly 9% in 1982 and at double-digit figures in 1981. In an attempt to keep tuition as low as possible, the boards have not requested an increase in four years.

Tuition at our sister institutions, the six regents' universities and Washburn University of Topeka, have increased significantly since 1980. The regents' institutions increased tuition by 9.5% in 1980, 22% in 1981, 20% in 1983 and are looking toward another 10% increase in 1984-85. Current

ATTACHMENT I (2-14-84)  
HOUSE EDUCATION

tuition charges at the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and Wichita State University are \$410 a year. At the three regional universities the charges are \$322.

Washburn University of Topeka has had tuition increases of 25% and 22% in the past two years, and the current tuition rate is \$49 per credit hour.

Currently 4 community colleges are charging the maximum \$15 per credit hour, 2 are charging \$14 and the average for the 19 colleges is \$12.76. Many of those currently charging less than the maximum are planning tuition increases for 1984-85, and most will be at the maximum very soon.

Increasing the tuition range by 20%, to a low of \$12 and a high of \$18, will enable community college boards to engage more effectively in long-range fiscal planning for the next four or five years and will permit the 19 community colleges, which are currently serving more than 42,000 Kansans, to continue to provide quality educational opportunity at a modest cost.

The Kansas Association of Community Colleges requests favorable passage of House Bill No. 2731. Thank you.

MH:am



MARVIN E. SMITH  
REPRESENTATIVE FIFTH DISTRICT  
SHAWNEE AND JACKSON COUNTIES  
123 N. E. 82ND STREET  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66617



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

February 14, 1984

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
MEMBER AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK  
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL  
INSTITUTIONS  
FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

H.B. 2840

Mr. Chairman and Members of Committee:

County Commissioners expressed concern at an area meeting in Hiawatha over a year ago. Then some townships here in Shawnee County have been trying to verify student enrollment.

Specifically, address, enrollment in \_\_\_\_\_ hours of credit, if complete enrolled courses, and how many accumulative college hours.

Some students seem to enroll in heavy schedule with anticipation of dropping some course or courses before it affects the permanent record. Then taking the course the next semester.

By increasing the enrollment period from five weeks to mid-semester, we should have less students jump ship after mid-semester.

Also, maybe the schools will advise and counsel the students in responsible enrollment!

I believe the time has arrived for more accountability before the local counties and townships are billed for their enrollment.

(2-14-84)  
ATTACHMENT II HOUSE EDUCATION

Feb. 14, 1984  
Route 2, Box 190  
Berryton, Ks. 66409

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman and Members of the House Education Committee,

I am voluntary out-district tuition auditor for Monmouth Township.

Location: Southeast Shawnee County, bordering on Douglas and Osage Counties.  
Total Assessed Valuation: \$4,744,735 (as of Nov. 1, 1983, Co. Clerk)  
Population: 1,645 (1980 Fed. Census)  
Characteristics: 56 sq. miles, 115 miles of road, 2/3 unpaved.  
1 church, 1 school, 1 business, 1 soon-to-be abandoned train (MoPac).  
3 township cemeteries.  
Retired farmers, middle aged and young families.

Out-District Tuition Payments to Washburn University

According to law, our township board is liable for payments of out-district tuition for 64 credit hours for its students who attend W. U. Since it is billed for "credit hours enrolled" instead of "credit received," its liability is exceeding 64 credit hours. If students drop classes or receive no credit for 3 hours a semester, the township and the State of Kansas may pay for 76 "credit hours enrolled," per student.

WU does not account for the township's cumulative credit hours paid, nor grade classification of students on our billing. We'd like to pay for "credit received" to be determined at a time when credit is assured, preferably at the end of the semester.

In 1983 Monmouth Township and the State of Kansas each paid for 42 credit hours enrolled in which no credit was received.

Spring semester	22 hours at \$21.50	\$473.00
Summer session	10 hours at \$21.50	215.00
Fall semester (anticipated)	10 hours at \$22.00	<u>220.00</u>
	total	\$908.00

Out of our total payment in 1983 to WU of \$12,185.50, \$908.00 is receiving no recognition. We would simply like to be assured that we pay no more than 64 credit hours.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joan Hrenchir

REPORT OF STUDENTS ENROLLED AT WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

REPORTING PERIOD SPRING 1983

NAME LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE	T MO FROM I.D. NUMBER	MONMOUTH STREET ADDRESS & CITY	COUNTY/TOWNSHIP TOTAL * CR. HRS. COMPLETED TO DATE	PRESENT CR. HRS ENROLLED	CREDIT HOURS BILLED	CR. HRS. ENROLLED NOT BILLED
BERRY SUSAN MARIE	92131	6820 SE BERRYTON R BERRYTON KS	<u>27.0</u>	<u>9.0</u>	9.0	.0
BRADSHAW CHERYL AN	105885	6444 SE PAULEN BERRYTON KS	<u>16.0</u>	<u>13.0</u>	13.0	.0
BROWN HAROLD WILLI	110725	6525 WOODRING RD BERRYTON KS	<i>Moved to Va,</i>	3.0	3.0	.0
<del>X Topeka Township</del> BRUNTON PETER BRET	<del>112936</del>	<del>2631 SE 53RD TOPEKA KS</del>	<del>50.0</del>	<del>6.0</del>	<del>6.0</del>	<del>.0</del>
EDWARDS GENE LEE	212667	RT 1 BOX 116 BERRYTON KS	39.0	14.0	14.0	.0
FULTZ JON ROBERT	296688	4741 SE PAULEN RD BERRYTON KS	<u>49.0</u>	<u>15.0</u>	15.0	.0
GARDNER DENISE ARL	304115	RT 1 BOX 108 BERRYTON KS	16.0	13.0	13.0	.0
GARDNER LORI ANN	304161	4830 SE TECUMSEH BERRYTON KS	10.0	16.0	16.0	.0

(2-14-84)  
HOUSE EDUCATION  
ATTACHMENT IV

REPORT OF STUDENTS ENROLLED AT WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

REPORTING PERIOD FALL 1983

NAME LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE	T MO FROM I.D. NUMBER	MONMOUTH STREET ADDRESS & CITY	COUNTY/TOWNSHIP TOTAL * CR. HRS. COMPLETED TO DATE	PRESENT CR. HRS ENROLLED	CREDIT HOURS BILLED	CR. HRS. ENROLLED NOT BILLED
<del>X Topeka TSP</del> ANSHETT DAVID JAR	<del>45195</del>	<del>4731 BERRYTON RD TOPEKA KS</del>	<del>13.0</del>	<del>13.0</del>	<del>13.0</del>	<del>.0</del>
BERRY SUSAN MARIE	92102	6820 SE BERRYTON RD BERRYTON KS	<u>38.0</u>	2.0	2.0	.0
BRADSHAW CHERYL AN	105885	6444 SE PAULEN BERRYTON KS	<u>26.0</u>	12.0	12.0	.0
BROADEBENT VIRGINIA	990726	RT 2 BOX 2828 BERRYTON KS	9.0	3.0	3.0	.0
<del>MOVED TOPEKA</del> <del>1104 E 33rd Ph 266-3078</del> <del>BRUNTON JENNICE ELMI</del>	<del>110671</del>	<del>3121 SE CROGG RD BERRYTON KS</del>	<del>12.0</del>	<del>12.0</del>	<del>12.0</del>	<del>.0</del>
BUCHRETT PAMELA KA	902091	3850 SE BERRYTON BERRYTON KS	15.0	15.0	15.0	.0
<del>Williams- PORT TSP</del> FLANAGAN TONYA	<del>992255</del>	<del>1421 SE 77TH BERRYTON KS</del>	<del>12.0</del>	<del>12.0</del>	<del>12.0</del>	<del>.0</del>
FULTZ JON ROBERT	296688	4741 SE PAULEN RD BERRYTON KS	<u>61.0</u>	15.0	3.0	12.0
					12.0	.0



TESTIMONY BY WASHBURN UNIVERSITY  
BEFORE THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
CONCERNING HOUSE BILL 2840

INTRODUCTION:

House Bill 2840 has been introduced to change the student enrollment reporting date for "duly enrolled credit hours" for purposes of state aid and out-district tuition payments for the public community colleges and Washburn University. The bill recommends that rather than the end of the fifth week of the spring and fall semesters, the completion of one-half of the duration of the regular semester (9 weeks) be used for purposes of determining "duly enrolled credit-hours" for state aid and out-district payments.

RESPONSE TO THIS PROPOSAL:

COST CONSIDERATIONS:

A higher education institution incurs costs for teaching students on the day the classes start. These are real costs of educating a student and ones that must be borne by the institution. Such costs of education obviously need to be funded from the various sources of funding available to each institution. To declare on the 9th week of a semester that a particular source of funding, for class time already taught, may no longer be available, amounts to a substantial setback to the funding of an institution, especially since costs have already been incurred. The community colleges and Washburn University already suffer

from a loss of funding for costs incurred during the first four or five weeks of classes. House Bill 2840 in essence, is proposing that this existing problem be compounded by extending the possible reduction of funding to the 9th week of the semester.

This is analogous to students being allowed a full refund of tuition because they drop out of school and do not complete their work, even though costs have been incurred to teach those students while they were enrolled and educational services were rendered. This bill is essentially stating that if a student doesn't complete more than 9 weeks of work in a semester, no state funding would be available to cover the costs of teaching that student for 9 weeks. Applied to its extremity, why should funding be available from student tuition payments if the course work is not completed. Obviously, the rationale for not refunding student tuition is that a service was rendered for a certain period of time and the cost for delivering this service must be paid.

A second analogy would involve the state regents' institutions. State appropriations are made to the state regents' institutions, in part, on the basis of their anticipated enrollments as counted on the 20th day of classes. The question is, should the state regents' institutions be required to immediately forego state appropriation funding for those students who drop out of school by the 20th day of class or the 9th week of class. The state has long recognized at the state regents'

institutions that they do in fact incur costs for educating students at the level estimated in their budget, and therefore, funding continues to be available to these institutions throughout the budget year. Current state procedures provide for a two-year adjustment period for any decline in enrollments for the state regents' institutions as opposed to an immediate reduction in state appropriation, should enrollments decline. Therefore, House Bill 2840 would in essence impose double standards for public higher education -- one for the state regents' institutions and one for the community colleges and Washburn University. Should House Bill 2840 be favorably considered, it would seem fair and equitable to have a similar procedure apply to the state regents' institutions rather than have a double standard for public higher education.

OPEN ADMISSIONS INCONSISTENCY:

A second factor that should be considered in connection with House Bill 2840 is the State of Kansas policy of open admissions in all public higher education. On the one hand, the state is declaring that educational opportunities are and should be available to all Kansans who are graduates of a high school in Kansas and who want the opportunity to attend a public college or university in Kansas. On the other hand, this bill would penalize only selected institutions who accept students with a lower chance of being successful in their educational endeavors. A system of selective admission criteria, while denying the open admission opportunity, would reduce dramatically

the number of students who would drop out within 5 to 9 weeks of school. Penalizing institutions by first requiring institutions to incur the costs to teach students with a lower chance of being successful in their educational endeavors, and then saying that we will not help fund the costs of educating these students, is inconsistent with the state policy of requiring open admissions.

UNIFORM REPORTING:

For years, efforts have been made in Kansas to develop systematic student enrollment reporting dates for all of public higher education. Considerable progress has been made over the years and the state essentially has established a uniform student enrollment reporting system for all of public higher education. Presently, the 20th day of classes (4 weeks) is used for the official count of student enrollments and credit-hours in the state regents' institutions, the independent institution, and the community colleges. The fifth week of classes is used for Washburn University.

For these official enrollment dates to be changed, would amount to a reversal of the previous efforts to have fairly uniform enrollment reporting dates. The public colleges and universities in Kansas use the current reporting dates not only for the state, but also for federal reporting purposes, which include the annual HEGIS (Higher Educational General Information Survey) report and student financial aid reports for federal aid distribution. There are numerous other national reporting bodies

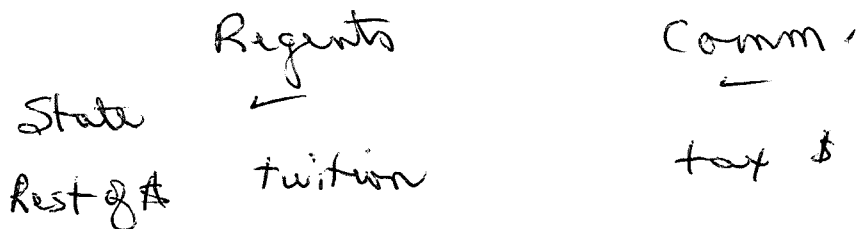


on enrollments which would also be affected by any change in determining student enrollments and student credit-hours. Essentially, the state would wind up with two different reporting systems: one for the state regents' institutions (unless they are included in the change), the community colleges, and one for Washburn University. It would become increasingly difficult to make meaningful comparisons under such a system of reporting.

In addition, all historical data from previous years would have to be adjusted in order to reflect comparable information with the proposed change in reporting dates. So, from a reporting standpoint, it would certainly not be to the advantage of the State of Kansas to establish new dates which would be inconsistent within the state, inconsistent with historical reports, and inconsistent with institutions in other states.

CASH FLOW:

Another factor associated with House Bill 2840 is the further deterioration of cash flow that would be created. Each institution already has a tight cash flow situation. By delaying the date of official reporting to 9 weeks, the cash flow problem would be extended by at least one more month, again compounding problems of institutional management.



SUMMARY:

For the reasons cited above, House Bill 2840 should be defeated. However, if it is voted in, it should be amended to include the same reporting dates for the state regents' institutions.

Dr. John L. Green, Jr.

President, Washburn University

February 13, 1984



# KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Columbian Title Bldg., 820 Quincy • Topeka 66612 • Phone 913-357-5156

W. Merle Hill  
Executive Director

To: House Education Committee

From: Merle Hill, Executive Director  
Kansas Association of Community Colleges

Date: February 14, 1984

Subj: House Hill No. 2840: An act concerning certain publically funded insitutions of postsecondary education; relating to entitlements of community colleges and municipal universities to out-district tuition and state aid and credit-hour state aid.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today in behalf of the 19 community colleges which are providing quality educational opportunity to over 42,000 Kansans. I speak in opposition to those sections of the bill which pertain to community colleges. Officials from Washburn University of Topeka will address those sections of the bill pertinent to a municipal university.

The community colleges have special concerns about (1) changing the enrollment-reporting date from the 5th week to the end of the 9th week and (2) changing the dates for distribution of the appropriation for credit hour state aid and out-district aid.

We see no reason to change the enrollment-reporting date, since the 5th week is the time the Regents' institutions apparently will continue to report their enrollments. Burdening the community colleges with reporting dates not required at the Regents' institutions would further compound funding inequities. Students at the six Regents' universities would apparently, with impunity, continue to be able to drop classes after the 5th week, with no concomitant loss of funds for the universities. In addition, it would be practically impossible to compare enrollment figures between the community colleges and the Regents' institutions or with our own enrollment history.

Much legislation is passed to correct abuses. If there are concerns that there are abuses of reporting enrollments at community colleges, why not deal with the alleged incidents individually, with statutes already in force, rather than appearing to suggest

that the colleges are reporting improperly?

Students drop courses or withdraw from them for many reasons, most of them legitimate and almost all of them beyond the control of the colleges. Shouldn't a college be reimbursed, let's say, for providing eight weeks of instruction, counseling and grading of papers for a duly enrolled student:

- o who becomes pregnant and, upon her doctor's advice, withdraws from a class?
- o who is a part-time student and full-time worker and has his work schedule changed?
- o who, in spite of the advice of a counselor, insists on enrolling in Chemistry I and Trigonometry and then finds out they are beyond her capacity?
- o who is interested only in automotive mechanics and could care less about those liberal arts subjects in which he is enrolled in order to meet graduation requirements?
- o who simply decides to change his major field of study, as more than 75% of all college students do at least once?
- o who is one of those students referred to yesterday and perhaps lacks the high school preparation necessary to succeed immediately at the college level?

These are all "legitimate drops" and occur nearly every day in colleges and universities throughout the country.

A representative of the Regents' institutions reported yesterday that only 7% of the 1983 freshmen at the Regents' institutions had completed all of the courses suggested as future high school graduation requirements. Many who have already graduated from high school have not had access to the proposed more demanding requirements, and they are demanding that their educational needs be met. Are they to become a lost educational generation, with no opportunity to try their educational wings and not be penalized if they do not fly right away, or even the second time they try.

(I was intrigued by the 7% of the students mentioned yesterday. You no doubt know that prior to World War II only 7% of those graduated from high schools went on to college. And, in reference to Representative Polson's remark about foreign schools, in Germany and France only about 7% of the students are enrolled in their elite secondary schools, the Gymnasia and the lycees. I wonder if these three different 7%-groups are not comparable?)



As Edwin Wilson, writing in the February 10, 1984 Wall Street Journal, puts it: "We still ask colleges to solve problems that should be solved in elementary and high schools." The people for whom the problems of reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic were not solved are still out there. Can we deny them equal access to educational opportunity, to upward social and financial mobility and to a more rewarding and adequate lifestyle? And, just as important, can we deny them the financial support their more fortunate brothers and sisters receive?

The community colleges are solving the problems Wilson referred to, everyday. As such, they are one of only four unique aspects of American higher education. (The other three are the Morrill Act of 1867, the so-called G.I. Bill of 1945 and the recent thrust toward continuing education.) Henry Steele Commager, one of our most eminent scholar historians, calls the community colleges "the most significant contribution to education of this century." The community college is, as it were, everyman's college, the college of fewer out-of-pocket expenses, the I've-always-wanted-to-try-this college, the I'm-not-ready-for-the-big-university college and, yes, even the last-chance college.

We suggest that the state should not deny its educational responsibility to this large segment of its population. And educational responsibility carries with it financial responsibility.

If there is a concern that educational privilege is being abused, why not eliminate the abuses rather than generalizing and appearing to say that the system and the philosophy of open admissions and equal access are wrong? Rather than suggesting without appropriate data that financial abuse is rampant, would it not be possible to refer the matter to an interim committee and have it determine if there are any fiscal abuses and, if there are, recommend solutions?

With regard to changing the dates of distribution of appropriations for credit hour state aid and out-district aid, I am certain those of you who have wrestled with the state's cash-flow problems will recognize the problems this will cause for the community colleges. It would cause the typical community college to have available in October several hundred thousand dollars now provided by credit hour state aid and out-district aid. It would require of already strapped budgets even larger carry-over balances and,

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as one president said "result in unmerciful curtailment of interest earnings which are needed and used to provide quality educational programs."

We do not believe House Bill No. 2840 is in the best interests of the citizens of Kansas, the 42,000 community college students enrolled today and the hundreds of thousands more who will enroll in the future. We respectfully request that you report House Bill No. 2840 unfavorably. Thank you.

MH:am

TESTIMONY GIVEN TO HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE 2/14/84 Re HB 2884

My name is Gary Deeter, and I have been a lifelong resident of Kansas. My wife Florence and I have three children, the 2nd of which was born with severe brain damage. Her name is Eileen, and she is now a resident of Kansas Neurological Institute here in Topeka.

We discovered Eileen's condition about six months after her birth. When other children were doing new things, like lifting their heads, sitting up, crawling, Eileen was barely able to lift her head. Our discovery of her limitations set us off on many fruitless searches for ways to reverse the damage in her brain. We watched quietly with inward tears as other children began crawling, began walking, started feeding themselves. Eileen could do none of those things. Later, as Eileen became more aware of her own limitations, we watched with inward pain to see her attempts to make her body do what her mind wanted to do.

Some doctors offered us hope of improvement, hope which was always dashed on the rocks of reality. At age 24, Eileen remains intensely alive and severely limited. She cannot sit without restraints, nor walk, nor talk, nor feed herself. Yet she is alert and participates passively in social situations. She enjoys being around people and has a sparkling smile.

During the years she lived at home (17 years in all), we did what we could to help her communicate. But the greatest progress we have ever seen in her came after she went to live at KNI. There she was enrolled in their educational programs and developed an excellent rapport with her teacher. She was making progress with a communication board, and was just beginning the quantum leap from communicating by pointing at pictures to pointing to words. We were so proud of her; her teacher was proud of her progress; KNI mentioned her as one of their promising pupils with such severe handicaps.

Then she turned 21. When Eileen passed that ominous, invisible marker, her formal education ceased. She had suddenly become ineligible to continue with her teacher, and she was removed from the educational program. Although KNI did their best to supplement with other kinds of activities, and although they attempted to build on what Eileen had learned, the effect was not the same. The consistent training she had received through the educational program became sporadic and less personal.

As I understand House Bill 2884, this bill will take some tentative beginning steps to keep people like Eileen from falling through the cracks. Even though I don't think it goes far enough, it is a step in the right direction.