

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

The meeting was called to order by Representative Bob Frey at
Chairperson

3:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on March 27, 19⁸⁴ in room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

All were present.

Committee staff present:

Jerry Donaldson, Legislative Research Department
Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department
Mary Ann Torrence, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Nedra Spingler, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

None.

Minutes of the meeting of March 19, 1984, were approved.

Representative Wunsch gave the report for Subcommittee A on recommendations made on SB 762, SB 759, and SB 262 (Attachment No.1).

SB 762 - Appeal from orders of the board of tax appeals.

Representative Miller moved to report the bill favorably, seconded by Representative Solbach. Motion carried.

SB 759 - Definition of "restricted mail".

Representative Wunsch said the bill was requested by a Sedgwick County District Judge because the Post Office does not have restricted mail service anymore. He moved to report the bill favorably, seconded by Representative Duncan. Motion carried.

SB 262 - Allowing attorney fees in insurance subrogation.

Representative Wunsch said the bill had been requested by the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association. Because another bill has addressed their concerns, there is no need for SB 262. No action was taken on the bill.

Representative Douville gave the report for Subcommittee B regarding SB 644, SB 669, and SB 677.

SB 644 - Payment for care of juvenile offenders.

Representative Douville said Senator Parrish, sponsor, appeared at the subcommittee meeting to support the bill. He noted the inconsistency and confusion statewide regarding who pays for care of juvenile offenders when they are taken into custody. The bill stipulates that SRS will pay for this care out of state welfare funds. Representative Douville pointed out that representatives of SRS had not appeared at the subcommittee meeting but had since submitted a statement (Attachment No.2) opposing the bill. SRS believes it sets up another fund requirement for paying pretrial costs. It estimates the fiscal impact to be over \$180,000. Staff supplied a copy of a new fiscal note supplied by the Budget Division (Attachment No.3) which shows a fiscal note used in the Senate Committee deliberations of \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year since most juvenile offenders are already in SRS custody when received for emergency care.

Representative Solbach moved to report SB 644 favorably, seconded by Representative Matlack. Representative Duncan made a substitute motion to table the bill, seconded by Representative Buehler. The substitute motion failed to carry. In discussion on the original motion, a member noted the SRS Review Commission had opposed SRS' current policy of paying for costs after offenders are found to be guilty. This policy is not working, and the bill would correct the system. The vote on the motion to report the bill favorably carried.

SB 669 - Child abuse investigations conducted on school premises.

Representative Douville said the subcommittee believed, whenever practical and safe, law enforcement officers should not be in uniform when conducting investigations on school premises for child abuse. Representative Blumenthal moved to report the bill favorably, seconded by Representative Solbach. It was noted that, in suspected child abuse cases, many times the

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY,

room 526-S, Statehouse, at 3:30 ~~xxxm~~/p.m. on March 27, 1984

child is intimidated by a uniform and does not want to talk to the officer. Because the bill makes the decision to wear a uniform one based upon practicality and safety, it does not make a major change in the law. Representative Patrick made a substitute motion to table SB 669, seconded by Representative Wunsch. The substitute motion failed to carry. In further discussion, it was noted that if law enforcement officers investigating child abuse cases on school grounds used common sense and good judgment instead of being loud and rude, unpleasant incidences could be avoided. Representative Miller made a substitute motion to reinstate subsection (h) which would require that a notice of investigations be given before officers appear at the school, seconded by Representative Wunsch. It was noted that (h) was stricken by the Senate Committee because it was felt the requirement would be burdensome, and the bill should deal only with a child's fear of a uniform. The substitute motion carried. Representative Blumenthal moved to report SB 669, as amended, favorably, seconded by Representative Miller. Motion carried. Representative Patrick voted against the motion.

SB 677 - Fingerprinting of juveniles.

Representative Douville said the bill was requested by the KBI and is a cleanup to 1983 SB 105 regarding the juvenile code. Representative Solbach believed the bill was more than a cleanup measure. He made a conceptual motion to amend references to Chapter 38, lines 100-102, and remove provisions regarding juveniles taken into custody for fish and game law violations, seconded by Representative Schweiker. Staff believed traffic and fish and game laws were added in the bill because they were not included when the juvenile code was revised. The vote on the motion carried. Representative Wagnon moved to report SB 677, as amended, favorably, seconded by Representative Matlack. Motion carried.

Representative Patrick gave the report for Subcommittee C regarding SB 794, SB 674, and SB 615.

SB 674 - Court Costs and additional expenses.

Subcommittee C had no recommendation on the bill which it believed changes the legal system from American to British. No action was taken on the bill by the Committee.

SB 794 - Docket and other fees for probate proceedings.

Representative Patrick noted that parts of the bill would be merged into SB 678 leaving the concept of raising the fees for Sedgwick and Wyandotte Counties law libraries for possible action. Representative Foster, Sedgwick County, and Senator Steineger, Wyandotte County, had testified that a raise in the fee was needed in these two counties. Representative Wunsch made a conceptual motion to strike all language in SB 794 except provisions for the increase in library fees, seconded by Representative Blumenthal. Motion carried. Representative Wunsch moved to amend the law library fee for felony criminal cases in Section 3(a) from the maximum of \$3 to \$5, and for other cases the fee should be a maximum of \$4 rather than \$2. The motion was seconded by Representative Knopp, and it carried. Staff was authorized to clean up the bill as it pertained to motions made regarding the law library. Representative Duncan moved to report SB 794, as amended, favorable for passage, seconded by Representative Matlack. Motion carried.

SB 615 - Grandparents' visitation rights.

Representative Patrick said the subcommittee held a hearing on the bill and recommends that Section 1(a) of SB 681 (Attachment No. 4) be amended into SB 615. Section 1(b) of SB 681 was current law. There was discussion concerning the need to include subsection (b) in the amendment. Representative Schweiker moved to amend all of SB 681 into SB 615, seconded by Representative Vancrum. It was clarified that the amendment would extend grandparents' visitation rights which, under present law pertains only to divorced or deceased parent situations, to intact families. Members expressed their opinions as to the merits or drawbacks to the amendment. Attention was called to information in Attachment No. 5 from Susanne Hardin which lists the names of prominent persons who support extending the bill. It was noted that most other states have had good experiences with similar laws, and, since the amendment would not affect many people, court cases would be the exception rather than the rule. Objection was raised that the amendment interfered with parental rights, that grandparents would in most cases, be better able financially to enter into court cases than parents, and the standard of "best interest of the child" should be defined. The vote on the motion to amend carried.

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Representative Harper moved to report SB 615, as amended, favorably, seconded by Representative Justice. Representative Solbach made a substitute motion to adopt the amendment for SB 615 suggested in Attachment No. 6, seconded by Representative Cloud. The amendment would express in law the six factors the court should consider in determining the best interest of the child and would help delineate legislative intent. It was noted these guidelines are listed in the divorce code. The vote on the substitute motion carried. Representative Patrick moved to report SB 615, as amended, favorably, seconded by Representative Harper. Motion carried.

The Committee took action on several bills.

SB 734 - Corporate fiduciary's appointment as guardian.

Representative Knopp moved to report the bill favorably, seconded by Representative Buehler. Motion carried.

SB 741 - Subpoena of business records.

Representative Knopp made a conceptual motion to amend the bill to require persons preparing the business records and submitting them to the court to give notice to the attorney requesting them that the records had been sent to the court, and the notification form should be printed in the statute. The motion was seconded by Representative Blumenthal, and it carried. Representative Duncan moved to report SB 741, as amended, favorably, seconded by Representative Douville. Motion carried.

SB 786 - Elimination of judgment docket.

The Chairman said the bill would not be acted upon as the Judicial Administrator could implement its provisions through administrative action, and there was no need to change the law.

SB 258 - Wrongful life or birth actions prohibited.

The Chairman said there were not enough votes in favor of the bill to bring it up for action.

SB 51 - Profits resulting for acts in violation of the controlled substances act subject to forfeiture.

The Chairman said Senator Bogina, sponsor, requested that the bill be brought off the table and amended to remove real property. Representative Blumenthal moved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

ROBERT S. WUNSCH
REPRESENTATIVE, ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST DISTRICT
BOX 473
KINGMAN, KANSAS 67068



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER: ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION
JUDICIARY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Attachment # 1

March 19, 1984

Representative Robert Frey
Chairman
Judiciary Committee
Room 115-S

Your Subcommittee A has met as concerns SB 262, 759 and 762.

It is recommended that SB 759 and 762 be passed out of committee without further amendment favorable for passage.

At the request of the Kansas Trial Lawyers, the committee is asking that SB 262 not be brought up for consideration unless subsequently requested.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob", written over the typed name of the sender.

Robert S. Wunsch, Chairman
Subcommittee A

cc - Rep. Frank Buehler
Rep. Cliff Campbell
Rep. Steve Ediger
Rep. Ardena Matlack

Atch. 1

STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Statement Regarding Senate Bill 644

Attachment # 2

1. Title of the Bill:
An act amending the Kansas Juvenile Offenders Code; relating to payment of expenses of care and custody of certain juveniles; amending K.S.A. 1983 Supp. 38-1616 and 38-1624 and repealing the existing sections.
2. Purpose of Bill:
To shift the responsibility for payment from the county general fund to SRS for alleged juvenile offenders who are taken into custody by law enforcement officers and placed in youth residential facilities prior to their initial hearing.
3. Why the Bill:
This is not an SRS Bill.
4. Background of the Bill:
Some of the shelter facilities have had some difficulty in getting payment from the county general fund. This presents them with the problem of either providing the care without payment or turning the youth away. The problem is concentrated in a couple of areas, since most counties do comply with the law and provide funds for this purpose.
5. Problem with the Bill:
This bill blurs the distinction between the Kansas Juvenile Offenders Code and the Kansas Code for the Care of Children at the pre-adjudicatory level. The distinction was purposeful and is intended to mirror the adult criminal justice process, which places the expense of pretrial costs with the county. SRS is a post-adjudicatory disposition which is available to the court after the guilt of the offender has been established. This bill would represent a major setback to the logic implied in this separation.

The use of youth residential facilities to hold youth before a hearing presents a whole new category of pre-trial detention, that has the potential of widening the net and including youth who are now returned home. The costs while currently reported as modest have the potential to escalate far beyond the projected figures. The fiscal impact for the urban shelter facilities may reach \$180,000 within three to five years based upon projected usage. This figure does not include the use of group homes and family foster homes which are currently being paid out of county funds in the rural areas.
6. SRS Recommendation:
SRS strongly opposes the bill.

Robert C. Harder, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Social and Rehabilitation Services
296-3271
February 14, 1984

Atch. 2

S.B. 644 authorizes SRS to pay for emergency group or foster home care for juvenile offenders prior to the offender's placement in SRS custody. This period after pick-up by law enforcement but before a court hearing is generally only one or two days.

POLICY

Counties should not bear the funding responsibility for emergency care. The policy decision by counties may be to place all juvenile offenders in detention (i.e., jail or detention center) so that the counties avoid the additional costs of emergency shelters. The decision whether juvenile offenders are placed in detention or in shelters should not be based on budgetary considerations of the county; instead, the decision should be based on whether the juvenile needs a secure placement or not.

FISCAL IMPACT

The corrected Fiscal Note (2-28-84) on S.B. 644 estimates that the provisions of the bill would increase payments made by SRS in FY 1985 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. This figure is in accord with data compiled by the KBI's Statistical Analysis Center. During the 12-month period from October, 1982 through September, 1983, 159 juvenile offenders were served by emergency care facilities. Assuming that all 159 were not in SRS custody and an average emergency care period of 1½ days, the cost would be \$11,925 (at \$50/day). Actually, a majority of the juvenile offenders are already in SRS custody when received for emergency care.

The Fiscal Note states that the potential cost of S.B. 644 could be \$184,100/year; however, this figure evidently assumes that all detention centers will be closed and that all juvenile offenders will be placed in emergency care. According to the KBI, during the 12-month period mentioned above 1227 juveniles were held in detention centers. If all 1227 were in emergency care for 3 days, the cost would be \$184,050.

Detention costs (jails and detention centers) are fixed for the county. This expense will decrease only slightly (e.g., food costs) if juveniles are placed in shelters in lieu of detention, therefore there is no real incentive for counties to increase use of emergency shelters in order to have SRS pay the expenses. Law enforcement officers make the initial determination of where to place offenders. They are not involved with payment issues and will hopefully make the determination based on the welfare of the juvenile and of the community.

Session of 1984

SENATE BILL No. 681

By Senator Meyers

2-8

0017 AN ACT concerning visitation rights of grandparents; amending
0018 K.S.A. 38-130 and K.S.A. 1983 Supp. 38-129 and repealing the
0019 existing sections.

0020 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

0021 Section 1. K.S.A. 1983 Supp. 38-129 is hereby amended to
0022 read as follows: 38-129. (a) ~~If a parent of an unmarried minor~~
0023 ~~child is deceased,~~ The district court may grant the ~~parents of the~~
0024 ~~deceased person grandparents of an unmarried minor child~~
0025 reasonable visitation rights to the ~~minor~~ child during the child's
0026 minority upon a finding that the visitation rights would be in the
0027 ~~child's best interests of the minor child.~~

0028 (b) ~~Unless~~ *If a parent of an unmarried minor child is de-*
0029 *ceased and* the court finds that the visitation rights are ~~not~~ in the
0030 child's best interests, the district court may grant *the parents of*
0031 *the deceased person reasonable* visitation rights, or may enforce
0032 visitation rights previously granted, pursuant to this section,
0033 even if the surviving parent has remarried and the surviving
0034 parent's spouse has adopted the child. Visitation rights may be
0035 granted pursuant to this subsection without regard to whether
0036 the adoption of the child occurred before or after the effective
0037 date of this act.

0038 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 38-130 is hereby amended to read as follows:
0039 38-130. An action for reasonable visitation rights of grandparents
0040 as provided by this act shall be brought in the county in which
0041 the child resides with the ~~surviving spouse~~ *child's parent,*
0042 guardian or other person having lawful custody.

0043 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 38-130 and K.S.A. 1983 Supp. 38-129 are
0044 hereby repealed.

0045 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and
0046 after its publication in the statute book.

Atch. 4

Representative Knopp

12-8
ATTACHMENT # 5

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

Subcommittee C of House Judiciary has recommended that the substance of SB 681 be added to SB 615, and favorably reported by House Judiciary.

I have talked with each of you. Tomorrow you will vote. Time will be a problem in Committee.

I ask an "extra mile" of you today - to read through this packet this afternoon or this evening. You will discover the overwhelming need to allow SB 681 out of Committee.

As you leaf through this packet notice the number of supporters for the bill as it now reads. Notice the letters of testimony from:

The Menninger Foundation
Crittenton Center for Emotionally Disturbed Youth
Family and Child Psychiatric Clinic
University of Kansas Medical Center

Notice the 6 states that have laws similar to SB 681. We wanted to be reasonable in asking for SB 681. Cynthia Robinson, an attorney and past director of Kansas Action for Children, found at least 6 states that have laws similar in effect to SB 681. She spent 3 days in a law library researching statutes and case law; and made 37 long distance telephone calls to talk with key people in each of the 6 states. She asked 3 unbiased questions about the laws. Read what she discovered. There was not one objection or complaint!

I have been working 14-16 hour days since introducing these bills. I appreciate the long hours you legislators put in. I cannot complain about my personal efforts when I stop to think that on any given day hundreds of grandchildren in Kansas, like my grandchildren, are sad, confused, and emotionally affected being denied their healthful, loving relationships with their grandparents.

SB 681 is really an issue on the emotional rights and privileges of children.

Sincerely,

Suzanne H. Hardin
8229 Nall Avenue
Prairie Village, Kansas

Attch. 5

SENATE BILL No. 615

By Senator Meyers

1-27

0017 AN ACT amending the Kansas code for care of children; provid-
0018 ing for grandparents' visitation rights under certain circum-
0019 stances; amending K.S.A. 1983 Supp. 38-1563 and repealing
0020 the existing section.

0021 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

0022 Section 1. K.S.A. 1983 Supp. 38-1563 is hereby amended to
0023 read as follows: 38-1563. (a) After consideration of any evidence
0024 offered relating to disposition, the court may retain jurisdiction
0025 and place the child in the custody of the child's parent subject to
0026 terms and conditions which the court prescribes to assure the
0027 proper care and protection of the child, including supervision of
0028 the child and the parent by a court services officer, or may order
0029 the child and the parent to participate in programs operated by
0030 the secretary or another appropriate individual or agency. The
0031 terms and conditions may require any special treatment or care
0032 which the child needs for the child's physical, mental or emo-
0033 tional health.

0034 (b) The duration of any period of supervision or other terms
0035 or conditions shall be for an initial period of no more than 18
0036 months. The court, at the expiration of that period, upon a
0037 hearing and for good cause shown, may make successive exten-
0038 sions of the supervision or other terms or conditions for up to 12
0039 months at a time.

0040 (c) The court may order the child and the parents of any child
0041 who has been adjudged a child in need of care to attend coun-
0042 seling sessions as the court directs. The expense of the coun-
0043 seling may be assessed as an expense in the case. No mental
0044 health center shall charge a greater fee for court-ordered coun-
0045 seling than the center would have charged to the person receiv-

0046 ing counseling if the person had requested counseling on the
0047 person's own initiative.

0048 (d) If the court finds that placing the child in the custody of a
0049 parent will not assure protection from physical, mental or emo-
0050 tional abuse or neglect or sexual abuse or will not be in the best
0051 interests of the child, the court may enter an order awarding
0052 custody of the child, until the further order of the court, to one of
0053 the following:

0054 (1) A relative or other suitable person;

0055 (2) a shelter facility; or

0056 (3) the secretary.

0057 If the court has awarded legal custody based on such a finding,
0058 the legal custodian shall not return the child to the home of that
0059 parent without the written consent of the court.

0060 (e) When the custody of the child is awarded to the secretary:

0061 (1) The court may recommend to the secretary where the
0062 child should be placed, but the court shall not have the power to
0063 direct a specific placement; and

0064 (2) the secretary shall notify the court in writing of any
0065 placement of the child as soon as the placement is accomplished.

0066 (f) *If custody of a child is awarded under this section to a*
0067 *person other than the child's parent, the court may grant a*
0068 ~~*grandparent of the child*~~ *any individual reasonable rights to*
0069 *visit the child upon motion of the ~~grandparent~~ individual and a*
0070 *finding that the visitation rights would be in the best interests*
0071 *of the child.*

0072 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 1983 Supp. 38-1563 is hereby repealed.

0073 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and
0074 after its publication in the statute book.

SENATE BILL No. 681

By Senator Meyers

2-8

0017 AN ACT concerning visitation rights of grandparents; amending
0018 K.S.A. 38-130 and K.S.A. 1983 Supp. 38-129 and repealing the
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0023 ~~child is deceased,~~ The district court may grant the ~~parents of the~~
0024 ~~deceased person grandparents of an unmarried minor child~~
0025 reasonable visitation rights to the ~~minor~~ child during the child's
0026 minority upon a finding that the visitation rights would be in the
0027 ~~child's best interests of the minor child.~~

0028 (b) ~~Unless~~ *If a parent of an unmarried minor child is de-*
0029 *ceased and* the court finds that the visitation rights are ~~not~~ in the
0030 child's best interests, the district court may grant *the parents of*
0031 *the deceased person reasonable* visitation rights, or may enforce
0032 visitation rights previously granted, pursuant to this section,
0033 even if the surviving parent has remarried and the surviving
0034 parent's spouse has adopted the child. Visitation rights may be
0035 granted pursuant to this subsection without regard to whether
0036 the adoption of the child occurred before or after the effective
0037 date of this act.

0038 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 38-130 is hereby amended to read as follows:
0039 38-130. An action for reasonable visitation rights of grandparents
0040 as provided by this act shall be brought in the county in which
0041 the child resides with the ~~surviving spouse~~ *child's parent,*
0042 guardian or other person having lawful custody.

0043 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 38-130 and K.S.A. 1983 Supp. 38-129 are
0044 hereby repealed.

0045 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and
0046 after its publication in the statute book.

SESSION OF 1984

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 615

As Amended by Senate Committee on Judiciary

Brief of Bill*

S.B. 615, as amended by the Senate Committee, amends the Kansas Code for Care of Children to provide that when custody of a child is awarded to a person other than the child's parent, the court may grant any individual reasonable visitation rights upon motion of the individual and a finding the visitation would be in the best interest of the child.

Background

The bill, as introduced, applied only to grandparents. The bill was supported by the Kansas Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) and several other persons.

* Bill briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent.

THE BILL: SB 615 applies basically to children in foster care. A court "may grant an individual reasonable rights to visit the child..."

THE AMENDMENT: Subcommittee C of House Judiciary recommended that the substance of SB 681 be added to SB 615, and favorably reported by House Judiciary. SB 681 is not confined to foster care. It reads: "The district court may grant the grandparents of an unmarried minor child reasonable visitation rights to the child during the child's minority upon a finding that the visitation rights would be in the child's best interests..."

THE IMPACT: Current Kansas law allows a grandparent to request visitation with a grandchild when the grandparent's adult child has died or been divorced. SB 615 extends visitation privileges to children in foster care; SB 681 extends it to any situation that is in the best interests of the grandchild. Examples of families who aren't being helped by the current Kansas laws are:

- 1) children of an unwed parent living alone or with a co-habitant;
- 2) children of a parent who was not originally married, but who has married since the birth of the child;
- 3) children of a parent who is absent from the home for an extended period due to hospitalization or incarceration;
- 4) children of a mentally retarded or mentally ill parent;
- 5) children of parents who divorced in a state which does not allow grandparent visitation; and
- 6) children of biological parents who have never married.

These children may be cut off from their extended families just when they especially need that support.

THE RESEARCH: Cynthia Robinson, an attorney from Prairie Village, has researched other state laws. There are six states with laws similar in effect to SB 681: North Dakota, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, New York and Washington. She researched statutes and cases. She contacted judges, attorneys, court administrators and social workers in these six states. She asked them:

- how well has grandparent visitation worked for the children involved, and
- have there been requests from grandparents that were "meddlesome" or unjustified, especially for intact families, and
- how many requests for visitation have been filed?

All of the jurisdictions reported that the great majority of grandparent visitation requests were after divorce or death, though there were a few involving intact marriages. The jurisdiction with the most litigation was New York, where 22 cases have been appealed and reported. Of these 22, 18 were after death/divorce; four involved unwed parents who were hospitalized, incarcerated, or disappeared.

A Seattle judge commented: The visitation law has worked extremely well. The cases seem to screen themselves. All the ones which reach my court are meritorious--not easy cases, but certainly not trivial or frivolous. The issue is really the emotional rights and privileges of the child.

An Idaho domestic relations attorney said: Idaho is an extremely conservative state with a heavy Mormon influence. The legislature saw grandparent visitation as a way to bolster the extended family.

A North Dakota legislator responded: The final vote on the bill was unanimous. I was surprised it was so easy. Our legislature wasn't alarmed about interference with families.

A law review article asserted: "Rather than approaching the problem in terms of competing rights, privileges, and interests, or in terms of natural law, the focus should be on the benefit or detriment to the child in question. Neither parents, nor grandparents, should have a proprietary interest in a child."

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Because testimony was given before Subcommittee C of House Judiciary, a majority of you are not informed of the reasons for SB 681 as it now reads.

During hearings in the Senate and before Subcommittee C, we had testimony from Dr. Modlin of The Menninger Foundation; Jon Willard, attorney in juvenile law in Johnson County and a member of the Johnson County Bar and Bench Committee; Cynthia Robinson, attorney in Johnson County and former executive director of Kansas Action for Children; the Office of Attorney General Robert Stephan; and Suzanne Hardin, grandparent and chairperson of the Kansas Grandparents Care Network Group.

We grandparents are denied seeing our grandchildren for similar reasons. The parents of our grandchildren fall into specific groups:

intact marriages - unstable teen-age parents, parents in their 20's and 30's, heavy use of alcohol and drugs, marginal life styles, severe marital problems, lack of adequate parenting skills, one parent absent from the home for various reasons.

unwed mothers - unstable teen-age pregnancies, lack of bonding with the children, severe drug problems, temporary "homes" with co-habitants.

In almost every situation among the 278 grandparents, our adult children broke from family in early high school years when they became involved with drugs. The classic problems followed - runaways, teen pregnancies, "children having children" and "poor quality parenting" that are documented by medical professionals, mental health professionals, and social service professionals.

Some of the births were unwanted; some wanted "babies out of loneliness" but were too overwhelmed with parenting responsibilities. These "parents" quickly and willingly left their children in our care as babysitters or around the clock caretakers. Sometimes one or both parents moved in for various periods of time.

We grandparents tried to help. We helped financially because the parents were often times unemployed. We also became the substitute parents to our grandchildren...their bond with us resulted from their parents inability to parent.

There are a number of reasons why these parents sever relationships between their children and grandparents. The more prevalent are:

- 1) grandparents cannot continue financing the parents, especially when they do not have or keep jobs.
- 2) grandparents don't continue "bailing" the parents out of trouble.
- 3) the grandchildren have healthful close emotional ties with the grandparents that causes needless resentment in the parent.

The result is, the parents stop any further contact with the grandparents. Sometimes they allow brief controlled visits if the grandparents comply with certain demands: "you can visit but I need \$100". We give them money in order to remain in touch with our grandchildren.

These conditions are not healthy for the children. Parents even punish their children for loving their grandparents. They tell the children "Grandma and Grandad don't see you anymore because they don't love you". Nearly every grandparent has had their grandchildren ask "Why don't you love us anymore?" "We're spanked when we cry to see you" "We want to come to your house".

There are hundreds of heartbreaking accounts of cruel severances of loving relationships...of grandparents hiding in bushes at school playgrounds just to glimpse their grandchildren; of grandparents dying of cancer or paralyzed by strokes whose only wish is to see their grandchildren; grandparents who have not seen their grandchildren for as long as ten years and have hopes of seeing SB 681 passed; of grandparents who have heard of their grandchildren through teachers who report the grandchildren are missing them and want to see them; of grandchildren who manage to call their grandparents but fear their parents punishment.

These are "all American families"? they are troubled parents and emotionally hurt grandchildren. We grandparents need to see our grandchildren ...and also, keep an eye on their welfare.

1½ million teen age pregnancies were recorded in 1983. The fastest growing population in 1980's will be children under 6 and persons over 80. The 1990's will see 55% of the mothers working outside the home. The 1980's and 90's will see a return to extended family ties if society is to survive. The 1950's and 60's are on their way out.

We ask you to vote yes for SB 615 and SB 681.

Sincerely,

Suzanne and Creighton Hardin

PEOPLE TESTIFYING FOR AMENDED SB 615 BEFORE THE HOUSE
JUDICIARY SUB-COMMITTEE; MARCH 21, 12 p.m.

- Dr. Herbert Modlin, distinguished forensic psychiatrist;
The Menninger Foundation (Topeka resident).
- Bea Bacon, president of the Kansas Coalition on Aging; 150,000
members. (Overland Park resident).
- Suzanne Hardin, chairman of the Kansas Grandparents Care Network
Group; 278 members. (Prairie Village resident).
- Cynthia Robinson, attorney at law; past executive director of Kansas
Action for Children. (Prairie Village resident).

LETTERS OF TESTIMONY FOR THE HOUSE JUDICIARY SUB-COMMITTEE:

- Dr. Grace Ketterman, child psychiatrist; pediatrician; author and
lecturer on child development and family; conducts a
program on the child and family that is heard daily on
140 radio programs; conducts a monthly TV program on
channel 9; medical director of The Crittenton Center for
emotionally disturbed children, Kansas City. (Leawood
resident).
- Dr. Richard Don Blim, pediatrician; Pediatrics Associates, Kansas
City; consultant on staff at seven Kansas City hospitals;
past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
(Prairie Village resident).
- Dr. Rich Davis, pediatric psychiatrist; Family Psychiatric Clinic,
Kansas City; lecturer on child and family health.
(Leawood resident).
- Al F. Bramble, PhD. Education; head of the steering committee, Silver
Haired Legislature. (Lawrence resident).
- Dr. Karl Menninger, F.A.P.A. The Menninger Foundation.

A LIST OF SOME OF THE SUPPORTERS OF SB 681:

Dr. Herbert Modlin, The Menninger Foundation
Office of the Attorney General Robert Stephan
Jayhawk Agency on Aging, Donna Kidd (Topeka)
Kansas Coalition on Aging, Bea Bacon (Overland Park)
Kansas Association of Mature People, Leonard Dodson (500 members in Topeka)
Silver Haired Legislature, Al Bramble (Lawrence)
Kansas Retired Teachers Association, Glen Burnette (Topeka) (170,000 Ks. members)
Dr. Arthur Cherry, pediatrician (Topeka)

Dr. Lee Salk, psychologist, lecturer, author on children & family (New York)
Dr. Grace Ketterman, pediatrician and child psychiatrist, author, lecturer on
children and family, medical director of Crittenton Center
(Kansas City) (Leawood)

Dr. Rich Davis, pediatric psychiatrist (Overland Park)
Dr. Wayne Hart, child psychiatrist, Family Psychiatric Clinic (Shawnee Mission)
Dr. Steve Churchill, child psychiatrist, Family Psychiatric Clinic (Shawnee Mission)
Dr. Richard Don Blim, pediatrician and on staff at seven K.C. hospitals (Shawnee Mission)
Jane Helman (Overland Park)
Attorney Jon Willard, attorney & guardian ad litem in juvenile cases
Eugene Staples, hospital administrator, University of Kansas Medical Center (Lenexa)
Dr. Howard Fox, chm. Neonatology, KUMC
Dr. Peter deVriess, pediatric surgeon, KUMC (Leawood)
Dr. Kermit Krantz, chm OB-GYN, KUMC (Leawood)
Dr. and Mrs. Frank Masters, chm. Dept. of Surgery, KUMC (Mission Hills)
Dr. and Mrs. Stan Friesen, dept. of surgery, KUMC (Prairie Village)
Dr. and Mrs. Gunner Proud, past-chm. Dept. of ENT, KUMC (Leawood)
Dr. and Mrs. Bill Valk, past-chm. Dept. of Urology, KUMC (Prairie Village)
Dr. and Mrs. George Pierce, dept of surgery, KUMC (Lake Quivira)
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Brackett, chm. Dept. of Neurosurgery, KUMC (Lake Quivira)
Dr. Mary Mira, psychologist, KUMC
Dr. Creighton A. Hardin, vice-chm. Dept. of Surgery, KUMC (Prairie Village)
Dr. Brian McCrosky, dept. of surgery, KUMC (Prairie Village)
Dr. and Mrs. Max Allen, department of medicine, KUMC (Overland Park)
Dr. and Mrs. David Robinson, past chm. Dept. of Plastic Surgery, KUMC (Mission Hills)
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Pearson (Prairie Village)
Mr. and Mrs. John Uhlman (Prairie Village)
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Fischer (Overland Park)

32 additional names of physicians, nurses, medical students, medical secretaries at
the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Kansas Grandparents Care Network Group (over 278 members in Kansas)

Thank you for your time and interest to our needs,

Suzanne H. Hardin
8229 Nall Avenue
Prairie Village, Kansas 66208

Cynthia A. Robinson, Attorney at Law
7307 Rosewood
Prairie Village, Kansas 66208

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE
SB 615 AMENDED. MARCH 21, 1984.

Locations of members of the Kansas Grandparents Care Network Group:

Abilene	Lenexa
Brookville	La Crosse
Baxter Springs	Lawrence
Bonner Springs	Merriam
Concordia	Manhattan
Coffeyville	Mound City
Clearwater	Mission
DeSoto	Mission Hills
Derby	Maple City
Eudora	Neosho Rapids
Emporia	Overland Park
Emmett	Olathe
Girard	Ottawa
Galena	Parsons
Hutchinson	Pittsburg
Hillsboro	Prairie Village
Hays	Reading
Junction City	Rush Center
Kingman	Salina
Lebo	Topeka
Leawood	Valley Falls
Leavenworth	Wichita
Eureka	Fort Scott
Gorham	Sylvan Grove
McPherson	Waldo
Russell	



The
Menninger
Foundation

March 21, 1984

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My name is Herbert C. Modlin, M.D. I am a physician licensed to practice in the State of Kansas. I am a psychiatrist on the staff of the Menninger Foundation. I have a special interest in forensic psychiatry which is concerned with the overlapping areas of psychiatry and law. Consequently, I have been involved in many divorce actions, child custody disputes, and visitation rights. From these experiences, from consultation with colleagues, and from familiarity with the psychiatric and sociological literature, I have a few observations and conclusions I hope will be helpful to you.

From the child's perspective, divorce, separation or absence of one parent does not dissolve a family, merely a marriage. In the child's view, he or she is not being "divorced" from the important family members. He still has parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. The major change may be just in living arrangements. He knows he still has a family--or does he?

Too often parents, in their retaliatory zeal, do try to destroy the family structure, always to the child's detriment. One common move is to exclude the spouse's entire family, sometimes one's own family. Unfortunately, the litigation process, adversarial in nature, often abets the parental hostilities. The common experience from our no-fault divorce laws is that the battle now centers on child custody, including in-laws and even one's own parents.

The battle can be waged between parents and grandparents as in separated or divorced or one-parent families, or even in intact marriages, or in too many cases, intact non-marriage relationships. The controversy can result in denial of any grandparental visitations, strictly as a hostile gesture with no thought to the child's welfare.

In the psychiatric and sociological literature of the past 25 years, a useful phrase, "social support system," has evolved. We who have it rarely think about it. Its loss through some dramatic environmental change demonstrates its value. Truly, no man is an island. Each individual is embedded in a family--extended family--neighborhood--community. This social support system is necessary for our sense of belonging and feeling of security. For the child, the family is his community. We all have a need to belong and to know who we belong with. A sense of family continuity is part of our self-perception and our psychological security. Children are fascinated with the grandparents' tales of when their parents were young.

Alex Haley's search for his roots was a psychologically sound quest, impelled by his need to feel a sense of continuity and belonging.

Box 829
Topeka, KS 66601
913 273 7500

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
March 21, 1984
Page Two

We see this need most strikingly in young adults, deprived of family in their young years, who have an obsession about finding their roots. They feel somehow incomplete without this experience. A sense of extended family in time and space is a psychological need of some significance.

It has been documented in our psychological studies of families that grandparents serve functions different from and supplemental to those of parents. They are repositories of family and cultural values, anecdotes and history. They have kinds of wisdom achieved only by time and experience. Not being the authoritative parents, they can have a more relaxed relationship with the grandchildren. Free of the responsibility for daily discipline, they often find themselves listened to without the interference of the child's inevitable ambivalence in his parental relationships. They can serve as role models in several ways.

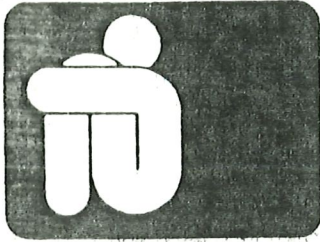
In summary, child-grandparent relationships have important psychological and social contributions to make toward the healthy development of children. Unfortunately, parents sometimes do not recognize this truth, and in pursuit of their private wars, sacrifice the children's best interest for their own goals. One of the newly emerging situations in our current social complexity is the gulf between grown children or semi-grown children (teenagers) and their parents precipitated by their participation in the drug scene. This clash of values and life styles frequently includes depriving grandparents of contacts with the grandchildren.

Of course, not all grandparents are paragons of virtue and may occasionally engage their children in conflict, using the grandchildren as the battleground. The Bill being considered by you seems to recognize this possibility, by leaving the decision in each case to the discretion of the court. This safeguard is a wise one.

Herbert C. Modlin

Herbert C. Modlin, M.D.
Noble Professor of Forensic Psychiatry

HCM/mp



meeting the emotional needs of youth since 1896
CRITTENTON CENTER

10918 Elm Avenue Kansas City, Missouri 64134-4199 (816) 765-6600

March 19, 1984

The Honorable Robert Frey
Capitol Building
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Mr. Frey:

On March 9th, I wrote you in support of S. B. 615 regarding visitation with a child removed from parental custody.

I also feel concern for such visitation rights in the case of an intact family. I work with children from so-called intact families who desperately need the support of extended family members. Many young parents are plagued with chemical addiction or other various, serious problems. In most cases, these parents are in some conflict with their own parents, but their children desperately need the stability and values of their grandparents.

It is true that some grandparents can become meddlesome and troublesome to both their children and grandchildren. In my considerable experience, however, this sort of situation is only a nuisance, and it can be dealt with by healthy parents with directness and firmness.

The needs of children for healthy values, for completing their childhood developmental stages, and for the security of regular contact with extended family members are great. This law can help greatly to meet it.

Sincerely,

Grace H. Ketterman, M.D.

GHK:jf

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THE FAMILY AND CHILD PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC, INC.

ACTIVE MEMBER, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Johnson County Offices
Executive Hills Office Park
Suite 308
8500 W 110th Street
Overland Park, Kansas 66210
(913) 648-5303

Kansas City, Missouri Offices
4400 Broadway
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
(816) 561-2025

Wyandotte County Offices
132 South 17th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66102
(913) 371-2561

March 15, 1984

The Honorable Donna Whitman
House of Representatives
Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Whitman:

I am writing you to urge you to consider favorably House Bill SB 615, the so-called "Grandparent's Visitation Rights" bill.

I am sure you have heard and will hear testimony from numerous people, both individuals and professionals in child care and in child mental health. To my knowledge, nearly all responsible people in the child mental health professions are supporting this bill and its concept. It is fundamental that children be allowed to maintain healthy, emotional relationships with all of the significant relatives in their life, regardless of whether their natural or adoptive parents should live separately or become divorced. Grandparents should not be left the unintended victims of a marital dispute or a marital separation or a marital divorce. It is not only the grandparents who suffer, but frequently the children suffer even more, having good relationships with another generation severed through no cause of their own or their grandparents. It does not make sense to sever healthy and important relationships with children, when the very nature of their life problem may resolve around other important relationships being severed.

Please consider carefully the positive aspects intended to be achieved by this Bill. If you do, I do believe you will agree this kind of legislation is in the best interests of the mental health of our children. And that indeed is in the best interest of this State.

Cordially yours,

Rich Davis, M.D.
Director, Outpatient Services
Family & Child Psychiatric Clinic
Johnson County Office

RD:bs

cc: Suzanne Hardin

KANSAS UNIVERSITY SURGERY ASSOCIATION
RAINBOW BOULEVARD AT 39TH ST. • KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66103

VASCULAR AND TRANSPLANTATION SURGERY

ARLO S. HERMRECK, M.D.
(913) 588-7232
CREIGHTON A. HARDIN, M.D.
(913) 588-6106

GEORGE E. PIERCE, M.D.
(913) 588-6128
JAMES H. THOMAS, M.D.
(913) 588-6115

March 19, 1984

Dear

We are writing to support the amended SB 615. We ask you to excuse a signature letter; our busy schedules do not permit enough time to write individual letters.

Physicians often are the first to see a child being affected by adverse situations. It is not unusual to see grandparents being denied seeing their grandchildren, and at a time when the grandchildren are emotionally attached to them. Such denial can be a form of emotional trauma for these children. We know the long lasting scars that can result with emotional separations and upheavals.

We are in contact with a variety of "modern day" family situations where the parents are not stable and the children are shuffled from one live-in arrangement to another. It is not infrequent to find young and immature parents who are unable to get their lives in order and who do not have parenting skills necessary to raise their children. In a great many of these cases, the parents have placed their children in at least the temporary care of the grandparents. It is not uncommon for the grandchildren to become deeply bonded to the grandparents stable love.

So often these parents do not have a "sense of family roots" and use the grandparents as a convenience for their whims. They can be adept at manipulating to their advantage placing the children as pawns. When this occurs, the grandparents comply in order to continue their caring role with the grandchildren.

We see this bill as a therapeutic effort to assure the children of family roots and love. When children are separated from healthy loving family ties we physicians see "failure to thrive" and "separation trauma" syndromes. Psychological symptoms occur that interfere with the child's healthy emotional development.

We view the amended SB 615 as a possible tool for justice. In similar cases where the healing professionals have intervened, our intervention was only agreed to by the legal custodian because of the threat of court litigation. Reconciliation of the emotional traumas would be in the child's best interest.

While Kansas deals with visitation after divorce and death of an adult child, this leaves unaddressed intact marriages, illegitimate arrangements, and families where a parent can be absent for extended periods. These children must be protected, too.

We thank you for your support. The following signatures are by members of faculty and staff.

NAME	ADDRESS	PROFESSION
<i>M. D. ...</i>	<i>KUMC</i>	<i>Pediatrician</i>

NAME	ADDRESS	PROFESSION
<i>Phyllis Larimore</i>	<i>3018 South 55 Jewell 66106</i>	<i>R.n.</i>
<i>Janet L. Black</i>	<i>KUMC</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Phyllis J. Kazoff</i>	<i>KUMC</i>	<i>Secretary</i>

NAME	ADDRESS	PROFESSION
<i>Kenneth Temple</i>	<i>8543 Lenora Ka</i>	<i>Hosp. Adm</i>
<i>Robert V. Bell</i>	<i>9500 Lenora CP, KS</i>	<i>Hosp. Admin</i>

NAME	ADDRESS	PROFESSION
<i>Robert D. ...</i>	<i>6711 Overhill Road Shawnee Mission, KS</i>	<i>66208 M.D.</i>

NAME	ADDRESS	PROFESSION
<i>Janet Raas</i>	<i>CRU/UMC</i>	<i>Special Education</i>
<i>Sharon Carter</i>	<i>CRU/UMC</i>	<i>Occupational Therapy</i>
<i>Susan Cannon</i>	<i>CRU/UMC</i>	<i>Physical Therapy</i>

NAME	ADDRESS	PROFESSION
<i>J. Iliopoulos</i>	<i>KUMC</i>	<i>M.D.</i>
<i>S. Keushkerian</i>	<i>KUMC</i>	<i>M.D.</i>
<i>L. ...</i>	<i>KUMC</i>	<i>M.D.</i>
<i>Stanley P. ...</i>	<i>46 Le Mans Ct, P.O. Box 66208</i>	<i>Surgeon</i>
<i>L. Albani</i>	<i>KUMC</i>	<i>M.D.</i>

NAME	ADDRESS	PROFESSION
Douglas J. Lark	5407 Cambridge Shawnee KS	M.D.
Nathan Campbell	K.C. KS.	M.D.
Monte H. Burt	3203 W 43RD AVE KC KS	Med Student
Kenneth J. Jones	190 W 37th Ave Kansas City, KS	" "
Don Borden	3636 Springfield KC, KS 64103	M.D.
Tim Votrupa	4005 STATE LINE K.C., MO 64111	M.D.
Steve	12300, Brownwood KS	M.D.
Frederick	6738 Fairview Shawnee MO KS	M.D.
Frederick R. Roubly	7219 High Drive	P.U. Kansas M.D.
Paul G. Jones	1500 Fairview Ave	M.D.
St. Elmer	2524 W 51st Terr Westwood KC, KS	M.D.
David M. Caschman	Overland Park, KS 890 W. 97 Terr	M.D.
James P. Webb	10016 W 86th Terr OP KS	M.D.
Betty Lemichan	2522 W. 47th St K.C.	R.N.
Maureen C. Coker	40170 West 87th St P.U. KS	M.D.
John J. Hennessey	211 Terr. Trail East, Lake Quinn, KS	M.D.
Caroline B. Weaver	8536 W. 52nd Merriam KS	Med Secy.
Donna C. McCarty	4310 W. 70th P.U. KS.	M.D.
Creighton A. Hardin	U of Kansas	Med Center M.D.
George E. Purdie	U of Kansas	M.D.
Josephine H. Hardin	8229 HALL	Speech Path.

NAME	ADDRESS	PROFESSION
Mary Anne	K.U. med Center	Psychologist

NAME

ADDRESS

PROFESSION

John M. Hebert KUMC Surgeon

Debra D. Luch KUMC Internist

M. Madsen KUMC Neurologist

Jerry Burgess KUMC Registered Nurse

Belanick Keeder KUMC Registered Nurse

Tatty Wilson KUMC RN

Margie Ray KUMC RN

Wendell J. E. KUMC Med Student

Max Allen, MD KUMC Physician

H. Sch. KUMC Physician

Mary L. Atwell KUMC Medical Secretary

Kathy Rubinger KUMC Medical Secretary

1924 Louisiana
Lawrence, Kansas 66044
March 15, 1984

Representative Robert G. Frey, Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Mr. Frey:

I write concerning favorable passage of SB 615 with SB 681 added as amendments. My concern is that of one long active in the field of aging as well as being a grandparent myself.

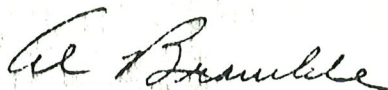
Provision of legal rights as incorporated in SB 615 and SB 681 is to the benefit of grandchildren as well as to grandparents. The emotional importance of "roots" which provide the child a sense of identity (who they are) and a feeling of belonging are essentials for healthy development.

Although not many, there are instances in which children and grandparents are denied mutual access. In these situations, children lack the knowledge and emotional maturity for correction. Grandparents can do what the child cannot to maintain contact, if they have the established legal right as incorporated in SB 615 and SB 681.

Such rights would be invoked in only a few cases and the courts would make the final decision concerning the welfare of the child. This provides safeguards against "frivolous" cases and unwarranted intervention on the part of grandparents.

As a grandparent, I join many others in requesting legislation that will benefit many children.

Sincerely yours,



A. F. Bramble

cc: Committee Members



The
Menninger
Foundation

March 7, 1984

Mrs. Creighton Hardin
8229 Nall Avenue
Prairie Village, Kansas 66208

Dear Mrs. Hardin:

Your letter of February 20 which I read to some of my colleagues here causes us, your fellow citizens, sadness and joy: sadness for the problems you have had to undergo and joy that you have the courage and the vision to do something positive for the ill and not just for your own distress.

Thank you for letting me in on the knowledge of it.

I would like to make the acquaintance of your husband.

Sincerely,

Karl Menninger, M.D., F.A.P.A.

KM/b

L SUMPTER
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HASLETT MI 48840 27PM

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5173398663 MGM TDMT HASLETT MI 55 02-27 0907P EST

SENATOR J MEYERS
U S SENATE
WASHINGTON DC 20510

GRANDPARENTS WHO ARE DENIED THE RIGHT TO ASSOCIATE WITH GRANDCHILDREN
WHO LIVE IN KANSAS URGE THE KANSAS LEGISLATORS TO SUPPORT KANSAS
SENATE BILLS 614 615 AND 681 THAT ARE BADLY NEEDED TO PROTECT THE
RIGHTS OF KANSAS CHILDREN.

LFE AND LUCILLE SUMPTER
GRANDPARENTS CHILDRENS RIGHTS INC

21:08 EST

MGMCOMP

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

NAME

Roy E. Dugan

STREET

702 1/2 Maple

CITY - STATE - ZIP

Russell, Ks. 67665

NAME

Dorilyn Dugan

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WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

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NAME

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WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

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NAME

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NAME

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NAME

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WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

NAME

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WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

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WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

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WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

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Eunice McBroom

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NAME

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WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

NAME

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NAME

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NAME

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Wm S Diggins

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WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

Norma Caldwell

NAME

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Sandra K. Brown

NAME

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NAME

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Caroline Hall

518 Franklin

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WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

NAME

Arnold and Amelia Michaelis

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51 S. Elm

CITY - STATE - ZIP

Russell, Ks 67665

NAME

Mary Lindquist

STREET

58 So. Elm

CITY - STATE - ZIP

Russell, Ks 67665

NAME

Walter + Rachel Michaelis

STREET

1211 N Maple

CITY - STATE - ZIP

Russell Kans 67665

NAME

Catherine Watson

STREET

45 South Elm

CITY - STATE - ZIP

Russell Kans 67665

NAME

Margorie L Schneider

STREET

971 E 5th

CITY - STATE - ZIP

Russell, Ks 67665

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

NAME

Ethel M. Witt

STREET

116-N Main, Russell, Kansas

CITY - STATE - ZIP

67665

NAME

Carol A Polczyn

STREET

117 North Kansas

CITY - STATE - ZIP

Russell, Kansas 67665

NAME

Barbara Ann Witt

STREET

313 Ash

CITY - STATE - ZIP

Russell, Kansas 67665

NAME

Cora E. Witt

STREET

313 Ash

CITY - STATE - ZIP

Russell, Kansas 67665

NAME

Margaret L. Pahlman

STREET

612 Maple

CITY - STATE - ZIP

Russell, Kansas 67665

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

NAME

STREET

CITY - STATE - ZIP

William L. ...
745 East 3rd
Russell, Ks

NAME

STREET

CITY - STATE - ZIP

William L. ...
130 West 4th
Russell, Ks 67665

NAME

STREET

CITY - STATE - ZIP

Carol ...
231 N. ...
Russell, Ks 67665

NAME

STREET

CITY - STATE - ZIP

Marlene Goodheart
333 W 4th
Russell, Ks 67665

NAME

STREET

CITY - STATE - ZIP

Bill L. Bond
737 1/2 Main
Russell, Ks 67665

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

NAME *Carl B. Johnson*

NAME

STREET *1229 N. Oak*

STREET

CITY-STATE-ZIP *Overland Park, Mo. 66204*

CITY-STATE-ZIP

NAME *Bill D Johnson*

NAME

STREET

STREET *505 S. Main*

CITY-STATE-ZIP

CITY-STATE-ZIP *M. Johnson, Kansas*

NAME

STREET

CITY-STATE-ZIP

NAME

STREET

CITY-STATE-ZIP

NAME

STREET

CITY-STATE-ZIP

WE SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 681, 614, & 615.

This letter was written by "Craig" who is an unemployed 29 year old living with a 22 year old unwed mother and her two children ages 6 and 3.

The man is on welfare; the mother receives state assistance. Both are on drugs. They function marginally at best. The children receive a minimal of care.

The grandparents are respected members of their community. Their other adult children and grandchildren enjoy close family ties. The grandparents have been like parents to the two grandchildren they can no longer see.

The grandparents are denied seeing their grandchildren because they can no longer meet the demands of their daughter for "extra spending money". They were financially supporting the grandchildren. "Craig" told them, "You ain't never gonna see your daughter nor them kids again".

The grandparents were the source of security and stability for their grandchildren. Their loving relationship was severed a year ago. The grandparents are helpless...SB 681 would allow them minimal visitation with their grandchildren.

Book

God if your mom lets you read
this I hope you won't
think ~~that~~ that it's just another
letter. please know that
I think you are one hell of
a guy & some day we may
just get together to make a
lot of money. people may look
what all we can do is show that
I am really sorry for not coming
to see you more but this is
just temporary. these are just
people that need help
like any one else & as
long as I know god even
though I get drunk & high ever
day I will still give all
I have got. I hope you'll know
that the whole ^{way} family means
~~much~~ very much to me & I will
never forget them

P.S.
love with
tell

Love you all
all
Craig

Grandmother seeks visiting rights measure

The Associated Press

TOPEKA — A grandmother urged lawmakers Monday to approve a bill that would provide visitation rights for grandparents in cases of child custody and neglect.

"We want so much to protect the children," said the woman, who declined to be identified because of her involvement in a related case.

She fought back tears as she told the Senate Judiciary Committee how grandparents lose contact with grandchildren who, because of parental abuse or neglect, are placed outside their parents' homes.

She said that children removed from their homes suffer enough "without shocking them further by removing them from their grandparents and others who care about them."

The measure would allow the courts to grant visitation rights to the grandparents of a child who has been placed in a foster home because the child's parents are found guilty of abuse or neglect.

Sen. Paul Hess, a Wichita Republican, said he supported the intent of the measure but questioned limiting the visitation rights to grandparents.

"I would hate to give preference to one blood relative," he said, adding that a child's natural brothers and sisters or other relatives might also want to see the child.

Grandparents argue need for visitation rights

By MARTIN HAWVER
Capital-Journal legislative writer

The Senate Judiciary Committee was told Monday that state law ought to make special provisions for placing a child removed from its parents' home with close relatives.

The committee, which has the past two weeks been hearing about family problems, will consider two specific changes in the state's code for the care of children as a result of Monday's hearing.

The changes proposed would specifically name blood relatives, or those related to a child in need of care outside his or her home, as explicitly eligible to receive custody of a child.

The other change would insure that if custody of a child is granted to a person other than one of the child's parents, that specific provision for visits by grandparents be allowed by the court.

Children are removed from their parents in cases of abuse or neglect by the

parents.

An Overland Park grandmother told the committee Monday that grandparents throughout the state want to insure

an said.

"It is traumatic enough for a court to have to order a child removed from the custody of his or her parents, and dou-

"(It is) doubly traumatic for that child to be cut off from the unquestioning love of a grandparent."

—Overland Park grandmother

they can keep contact with their grandchildren.

The grandmother, who asked not to be identified by name because of her shaky relationship with her children and possible reprisals, said that spiteful parents can use access to a grandchild as a weapon against grandparents.

"There are cases where grandchildren are abused, and it is just devastating. Grandparents are just devastated by what is happening and their lack of a way to help," the Overland Park wom-

an said. "It is traumatic for that child to be cut off from the unquestioning love of a grandparent, too," she said.

Sobbing, she said there are no words to explain to a small child why it can't visit grandmother's home, where it knows it will be safe and protected from the abuse of a parent.

Sen. Paul Hess, R-Wichita, questioned whether grandparents are trying to pre-empt other blood relatives with the bills, and Cynthia Robinson of Prairie Village told Hess no such effort is under way.

"By specifically adding to the state law the option for a judge to give preference in placing a child with a brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent, we give everyone a chance, and we give the child a chance for the best possible environment," she said.

Robinson said the specific grandparent visitation proposal was made on behalf of grandparents.

She said while there is no specific bar to a judge placing a child removed from his or her natural parents with a grandparent, in some counties not enough case investigation is done to prove to a judge that a grandparent would be a good foster parent.

"And there are some small towns where one family just has a bad name, and relatives won't get custody of a child just because of that," she said.

Robinson said some lawyers also tell grandparents who seek custody of a grandchild that because there is no specific provision in the law, "they would be breaking new ground, and their chances are slim."

MANY OF THE PARENTS WHO DENY VISITATION RIGHTS TO THE GRANDPARENTS OF THEIR CHILDREN BELONG TO "THIS NEW GENERATION".

TIMES NEWS 7-29-81 Kingsport, Tenn. 37662

Baby boom casualties

By AL ROSSITER
United Press International

The children of the post-war baby boom have come of age and health authorities report the increase in young adults in the United States is accompanied by a new generation of severely mentally ill young people.

This new generation of mentally ill has been described as a rootless, unemployed class who use alcohol and other drugs heavily and who strongly resist help.

Many of them have never seen the inside of a mental hospital and are more likely to call themselves social casualties than victims of mental illnesses or personality disorders, according to Dr. Bert Pepper, director of the Rockland County (N.Y.) Community Mental Health Center.

He said these patients in their 20s and 30s have a variety

of diagnoses but share many of the same problems — their vulnerability to stress, their difficulty in making stable relationships, their inability to get and keep something good in their lives and their repeated failures of judgment.

"Most have been able to make only transient, unstable, unsatisfactory relationships with people their own age," Pepper wrote in the current issue of *Hospital & Community Psychiatry*. "Their friends and lovers are often other marginally functional people with equally uneven life courses and dubious prognoses."

Pepper, who also is professor of psychiatry at New York University School of Medicine, said since many of these mentally ill young people do not view themselves as patients, they are reluctant to acknowledge a need for treatment.

He said they are just as likely to blame mental health professionals for their problems as they are to turn to them for help.

Pepper said a review of 900 patients seen in a three-month period last year at the Rockland County center indicated that 294 were members of a group called chronic young adult patients. Fifty-seven percent were diagnosed as schizophrenic and 7 percent were manic depressive. The others had personality or behavior disorders, neuroses, drug or alcohol dependence and other disorders.

"We estimate that for every dysfunctional young adult we see, there are two to 10 in the community who never arrive at our doorstep but are hidden in dysfunctional families or in jails, or wander unnoticed on city streets," Pepper said.

Of those who are seen in mental health centers, he said few show marked improvement.

"Instead they become, individually and collectively, our albatross. They are functioning persons only in the marginal sense. They manage their lives tenuously at best and disastrously at worst."



FLOWER POWER STILL BLOOMIN'

Many people seem to be fascinated by the 1960's, in part, probably, because the years since have been so different and, in some ways, duller. If you have ever wondered, "Where are they now?" about the political campus activists of the 60's, you'd be surprised to find most of them aren't far from where they were back in the days of the free speech movement.

Dr. Alberta Nassi of the University of California Medical Center at Davis reports that the liberal students of the 60's from Berkeley are more likely to endorse leftist political convictions; work in human services, academic or creative pursuits; show less upward mobility and lower annual incomes. Though they still have doubts about the American system, they are less certain that change occurs only from outside the system.

One and one-half million
teenage pregnancies in
1983!

**Children Having Children:
The Rise in Teenage Pregnancy**

More young girls than ever before are sexually active, and they are beginning at earlier ages. Not surprisingly, teenage pregnancies have increased dramatically. In 1977 alone, more than 559,000 babies were born to girls between the ages of 15-19. (Most of these young mothers were unmarried.) The rise in teenage pregnancies has put an immense strain on social services. Young girls, most of them still in school, are completely unequipped, either emotionally or financially, to cope with child-raising. Federal, state and local welfare agencies must step in to provide support. Campaigns to provide teenagers with more information on sex and birth control have had little effect on the teenage birth rate. Increasing teen access to information and counseling is necessary, but the major factors in teenage sexual activity are emotional, not intellectual. They include peer pressure, the need for attention or (the urge to rebel) factors that cannot be controlled by information alone.

DESERET NEWS

Salt Lake City, Utah, October 27, 1979

The United States is in the midst of a tragic epidemic.

This epidemic involves the estimated one-million teenagers who get pregnant out of wedlock each year. Many of these pregnancies bring unwanted infants into the world. Others are terminated with abortions.

Now the tragedy is in danger of being compounded by a well-intentioned but misguided "remedy."

We're referring to the study released this week by a pair of Johns Hopkins University sociologists, Melvin Zelnik and John F. Kanter, with funding from the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare plus the Ford Foundation.

The solution suggested by these researchers is no solution at all. They call for "new and imaginative" approaches to contraception for teenagers that "take into account the increasingly early sexual experience of young people."

Let's call that suggestion by its right name: hedonism. In other words, pleasure without responsibility. If ever there were a sure formula for human misery, this is it.

Instead, what's needed is a social climate with less emphasis on instant gratification. More precisely, what's needed is a social climate with a firmer commitment to a stable partnership through marriage, establishment of a secure home, and readiness to nurture children resulting from the union of man and woman. This presupposes not just physical maturity, but also mental, emotional, and financial maturity.

Such traditional morality is needed not just because it's familiar or because it's still acceptable in the "right circles." Rather, it's needed because mankind has found no more effective way to achieve genuine, lasting happiness. It really works.

Only when this nation becomes fully committed to high moral standards will it make headway against the illegitimate pregnancy epidemic and similar social ills.

We grandparents know the tragedy of our children having children.

SB 681 would help us help our grandchildren in their troubled homes and we would be role models for our grandchildren to "break the cycle."

The Detroit News

Detroit, Mich., April 9, 1979

The startling increase in the number of teen-age pregnancies is often blamed on teen-agers' lack of knowledge about and access to birth control devices. This is a comforting theory because it suggests that more and better sex education would reverse an alarming social trend.

Unfortunately, surveys based on actual clinical experience are beginning to show that the problem of teen-age pregnancies is far more complex than some of the theorists would have us believe.

One study conducted last summer in Rochester, N.Y. concluded that 96 of the 100 pregnant girls examined became pregnant deliberately. Only four of the girls — who were between the ages of 15 and 19 — became pregnant as a result of an unwitting failure to take precautions.

The Rochester survey group, it should be noted, was from the lower side of the economic spectrum. All of the girls in the survey group, moreover, had decided to give birth rather than seek abortions. The Rochester group appears representative of a far larger population. Of the nearly one million teen-age

pregnancies that occurred last year, about 600,000 resulted in live births. A large proportion of these girls came from low-income families.

What were the reasons cited for the Rochester pregnancies? The most common was loneliness, a factor mentioned by 30 percent of the youngsters. Other reasons frequently cited were anger at parents or authority figures, the recent pregnancies of other family members, and a desire to fulfill their boyfriends' wishes.

While the study hardly argues against sex education, it clearly suggests that all the sex education in the world won't prevent pregnancies in alienated children who use their bodies — consciously or unconsciously — to make a social statement.

This may not be encouraging news, but it is valuable. It undercuts society's glibber assumptions and forces people to look at the problem of teen-age sexuality in its broader, societal context. Who knows? It is just possible, if adults listen very carefully, that these kids can teach society something about the tattered state of its social fabric and how to repair the damage.

one million teen-age pregnancies in 1978.
loneliness the most common factor — separation from "family roots", anger at parents. (We grandparents know! This is true).

Grandparents can help protect their grandchildren; 2) help society; 3) provide family love; 4) guide the grandchildren to better lives.

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Milwaukee, Wisc., April 11, 1979

You'd probably feel bad if you found out your teenager was using contraceptives without your knowledge. But think how much worse you would feel if he or she accidentally became an unwed parent.

State legislators now are considering a bill that would require state and federally funded family planning agencies to notify parents before dispensing birth control advice or contraceptives to minors. Since many kids apparently would rather chance pregnancy than a run-in with parents, the bill effectively would reduce the availability of birth control to unmarried teenagers.

The proposal is of dubious legality. The US Supreme Court already has ruled that parental consent could not be required in federally funded birth control programs. A requirement of parental notification may be likewise struck down. But even if sustained in court, would it be wise public policy?

Many people seem to think that restricting unwed teenagers' access to contraceptives will discourage premature sexual activity - a laudable objective. Unfortunately, studies show that, even when contraceptives aren't available, teenagers tend to become

sexually active. In fact, not only has the age of sexual initiation dropped, but the number of sexually active teens who never use contraception also has risen. Not surprisingly, the number of unwanted teenage pregnancies simultaneously has climbed.

But what about the moral question? Isn't it wrong to, in effect, assist an unmarried teen in the pursuit of casual sex? In one sense, yes. However, more compelling moral claims also are involved. Contraceptives could restrict the incidence of abortion, a common, repugnant course of action for pregnant teens. And birth control could reduce the number of unwanted children born doomed to poverty. The facts are that 8 out of 10 mothers under 17 never finish high school and most unwed mothers now keep their babies. So teenage pregnancy often locks young girls into lifelong unemployment, poverty, welfare, even child abuse (a cycle that frequently their children repeat).

Parents and teachers have a serious duty to educate the young in sexual responsibility, to discourage sexual promiscuity. Yet words are insufficient to stop the epidemic of teenage pregnancies. Unimpaired access to contraceptives is part of the solution.

Los Angeles Times

Los Angeles, Calif., April 29, 1979

The increasing birthrate among unwed teen-age mothers is a personal disaster for them and their children, and a social disaster for the country.

After a two-year study, a task force of the House Select Committee on Population reported:

-Two million sexually active teen-age girls do not have access to contraceptives and family-planning assistance.

-One million adolescent girls get pregnant each year, and a third of them have abortions.

-Of the 600,000 teen-aged girls who gave birth last year, 250,000 were under the age of 17.

-Seventy per cent of pregnant teen-agers do not finish high school, and 90% of pregnant girls 15 or under drop out of school.

-In 1976, \$4.6 billion of public funds went to mothers who first gave birth as teen-agers. That figure represents half of the funds expended for Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

-Births among unwed teen-age mothers have more than doubled since 1960, and rate of births to girls under 15 increased 33% in 10 years.

-Over 50% of unwed mothers are teen-agers.

Rep. Anthony C. Beilenson, Democrat of Los Angeles, a member of the select committee, advanced two sensible proposals that would not solve this crisis but might help reduce it to less threatening proportions. One calls for an increase in funds to extend family-planning services to more teen-agers, and the other emphasizes an extension of sex education in the schools.

The first proposal, aside from its human necessity, would likely save money because, as Beilenson noted, early births lead to a dependency on welfare for hundreds of thousands of teen-agers. Sex education ought to be required in all schools, although only six states and the District of Columbia now make it mandatory. Sex education is available in California schools with the written consent of parents.

The statistics in the committee's study, grim as they are, cannot alone tell the full story. Behind the statistics are frustrated young lives unable to cope with premature and heavy responsibilities. And their children, by the hundreds of thousands, are condemned to repeat the cycle.

Lincoln Journal

Lincoln, Neb., July 6, 1979

If results of a sampling of 2,193 American teen-age girls can be said to be nationally representative, more of those teenagers than ever are participating in sexual intercourse, and at earlier ages.

Researchers for the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health matched the results of 1971 and 1976 studies about the sexual conduct of American teen-age girls. They discovered significant changes.

In just five years, the percentage of American females having sexual intercourse before their 19th birthday rose from 55 to 63, or from about one of every two, to two of every three. Concurrently, the median age for loss of virginity declined from 18.7 to 18.1 years.

The Johns Hopkins population experts postulate from their data - now more than two years old - that "one of 10 U.S. women becomes pregnant before the age of 17, one quarter before they are 19 and eight in 10 of the pregnancies are pre marital."

The absorber of those figures tries not to be sanctimonious or sound hypocritically preachy, but they can't be regarded as particularly cheering. The more responsible approach is to ponder what pragmatic strategies are best for parents and society in general to assist young people in protecting themselves from consequences which can blast and blight their lives.

Without discounting any other approach, realistic sex information and counseling still seem useful. And certainly just as much for teen-age boys as well as girls.

These young people should not be

spared the knowledge of the possible grim and hurtful consequences of their acts. It might, for some, help bring social maturity a little bit closer to the obvious biological maturation.

The government estimates there are a million teen-age pregnancies a year, with 600,000 babies actually born. Most of the teen-ager mothers, including the nearly 50 percent who aren't married, keep their infants.

The tragedy of children having children has been documented. But not sufficiently often. The message has not been widely enough broadcast. This is a genuine tragedy which teen-agers of both sexes should understand much more than they do.

They ought to grasp what it means to be responsible for a baby 24 hours a day, what it means to be responsible and yet perhaps unskilled and unprepared in a competitive world of work.

What it frequently means is resort to public welfare. The latest calculation is that teen-age pregnancies cost the American taxpayer about \$8.3 billion annually in welfare and related expenditures. Congress and the states have essentially eliminated any medical welfare for teen-agers who go the abortion alternative.

Lecturing and sermonizing from people on the other side of the peer divide have not proved the most effective measures to help contemporary teen-agers in a time of greater sexual permissiveness. It makes more sense to offer the kind of supportive guidance which aids teen-agers to think more deeply and weigh their conduct more precisely. They are our children, not our enemies.

our children having children only damages lives and creates societal woes. Let Grandparents have the right to keep in touch with these grandchildren who are being raised by immature parents. We can help to better ourselves. Legislators to save

our grandchildren lives for
Won't you let us try our grandchildren?

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Milwaukee, Wisc., May 11, 1976

A Reedsburg school psychologist has made the apparently startling suggestion that ninth graders take a course in birth control and family planning. Students could be excused for religious reasons or strong parental objection. Predictably, some citizens protested and the School Board timidly tabled the idea.

The school psychologist says there were 20 reported pregnancies during the last school year among Reedsburg students aged 15 to 18. Unwanted teenage pregnancies are always sad and

often devastating to the lives of those involved.

It is absurd to think that this problem can be battled with ignorance, which is what will persist if sex education is left entirely to students and their parents. Demonstrably, in too many cases that means ineffective sex education at best. A student who has been well informed by parents cannot be harmed by a factual course, and a student full of ignorance or misinformation could be saved from a lifetime of trouble.

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte, N.C., March 28, 1980

The Observer's Louise Hickman Lione wrote poignantly Sunday about adolescent mothers who, overwhelmingly, are deciding to keep their children. That decision limits these young mothers' educations and their lifetime earning power. These children having children are a significant and growing problem for American society.

The N.C. Department of Human Resources reports the number of teenage mothers and their children receiving public assistance in this state has mushroomed during the past three years. In 1979, 4,664 teenage mothers got financial aid, compared to only 205 three years earlier.

Across the state, public health officials, schools and church groups are concerned. They should be — and community leaders should be advocating greater efforts to tell teens about the need to avoid too early pregnancy and childbearing.

The human resources department's statistics indicate greater efforts must come soon. As one county's health director, Mary Edith Rogers of Gaston County, says, "We think the spin-off is costly in terms of health as well as mental health and general social well being. It's an expensive way to go for young people before they are physiologically and emotionally — much less financially — ready to become parents. It's dangerous for the mother and the baby. Nobody wins."

Happily, the problem is being discussed in Gaston County. The county school board is reviewing a proposal given it by an independent committee of ministers, parents, principals, teachers and health officials.

The citizens committee, which has worked for nearly three years, proposes a broad program dealing with the family and human sexuality — including information about contraception. It would be taught in segments from kindergarten through ninth grade. If the program is adopted, a Gaston youngster would have enough information, not only about his or her sexuality but also about family roles and responsibilities, to understand the consequences of sexual intercourse. The Gaston school board is expected to decide later this spring whether to adopt the committee proposal.

More Carolinas communities should consider such ideas. Teenage pregnancies aren't just a problem for growing numbers of teenage girls. They are a problem for teenagers' families and for society as well.

Talking about sex makes people nervous. But avoiding the subject at home and in the schools won't protect children. In fact, it may disarm them, for they still will face pressure from their peers as well as the influence of movies, books and the mass media in a growingly permissive society.

Possible Amendment to SB 615

While we ask that you vote to accept SB 681 as it now reads, there could be a possible amendment in order to save the bill.

Several states have defined their laws that are similar to SB 681 as shown in our suggested (1) through (6) below. This amended wording could give additional guidance to judges who would interpret the language:

"The district court may grant the grandparents of an unmarried minor child reasonable visitation rights to the child during the child's minority upon a finding that the visitation rights would be in the child's best interest. In determining the best interests of the child, the court shall consider all relevant factors, including but not limited to:

- 1) the amount of contact between the child and grandparents;
- 2) the child's wishes;
- 3) the love and affection existing between the child and grandparents;
- 4) whether the child has ever resided with the grandparents;
- 5) interference with any parent/child relationships; and
- 6) whether visitation would endanger the child's physical health or impair his emotional development.

We feel this protects the parent/child relationship and the best interests of the child.

We ask that SB 681 not have a time frame attached to it because some grandchildren never live with their grandparents; some grandchildren have not seen their grandparents for a number of years.