

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by VICE-CHAIRPERSON ALICIA SALISBURY at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xxx~~/~~xxx~~ p.m. on MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1985 in room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Sen. Harder (excused)

Committee staff present:

Mr. Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Ms. Avis Swartzman, Legislative Revisor's Office
Mrs. Millie Randell, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

HB 2116 - School districts, area vocational-technical schools, community colleges, employee contracts, date for notification of discontinuation (Education, by request)

Proponents:

Dr. Bill Curtis, Asst. Executive Director, KASB

Opponents:

Mr. Craig Grant, Director of Political Action, K-NEA

HB 2142 - School districts, programs on alcohol and drug abuse problems (Teagarden)

Proponents:

Representative George Teagarden, sponsor of HB 2142
Dr. James A. McHenry, Commissioner, SRS Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services
Ms. Elizabeth Taylor, Legislative Consultant, Kansas Association of Alcohol and Drug Programs Directors
Ms. Chris Graves, Associate Director, ASK
Mr. Larry Woodward, Topeka, a parent
Mr. Craig Grant, Director of Political Action, K-NEA
Dr. Bill Curtis, Asst. Exec. Director, KASB
Mr. Paul Klotz, Exec. Director, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas

Vice-chairperson Salisbury called upon Dr. Bill Curtis, Asst. Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Boards, whose testimony in support of HB 2116 is found in Attachment 1.

Mr. Craig Grant, Director of Political Action, Kansas-National Education Association, stated that he is opposed to HB 2116, because teachers desire to maintain the 30-day window period between the time when a teacher must notify the school board of the teacher's intent not to renew the contract for the next year and the time the board must notify the teacher when it does not plan to renew the teacher's contract for the ensuing year. Mr. Grant maintained that shortening this time period by five days could place a hardship on teachers wishing to transfer from one district to another. Mr. Grant specifically opposed the date changes on lines 0035 and 0054 and explained that since college placement bureaus are open whether or not classes are in progress, the May 10 date should not hamper boards in their recruitment of new teachers.

Vice-chairperson Salisbury announced that the hearing on HB 2116 was concluded.

HB 2142 - When Representative Teagarden was recognized, he explained that HB 2142, of which he is sponsor, is a permissive measure allowing USD's to enter into contracts so as to provide alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs for students. Representative Teagarden emphasized the need to start prevention programs in the early grades and continue them through high school. He explained that the bill amends a law which presently applies to only three school districts. He also stated that the bill in its original form mandated that programs be provided in all districts but that the House

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,
room 254-E, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~x.m.~~/p.m. on MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1985

Education Committee amended it to be permissive. In response to a question, Representative Teagarden replied that funding for these programs would come from the general funds of the school districts involved.

Dr. James A. McHenry, Commissioner, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, testified in support of HB 2142, and his testimony is found in Attachment 2.

Ms. Elizabeth Taylor, Legislative Consultant, Kansas Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Directors, urged the Committee to reinstate the language to make the bill mandatory.

Ms. Chris Graves, Associate Director, Associated Students of Kansas, expressed support for HB 2142 in her testimony found in Attachment 3 but proposed several amendments to the bill

Mr. Larry Woodward, a parent from Topeka, emphasized the importance of drug and alcohol abuse programs in the schools in his testimony found in Attachment 4.

Mr. Craig Grant, Director of Political Action, Kansas-National Education Association, testified that the bill clarifies that all USD's could enter into contracts to provide programs on drug and alcohol abuse problems. Mr. Grant felt that at the present time it would be necessary to contract with outside agencies to provide these programs until school personnel could be trained to properly teach these courses. In response to questions, Mr. Grant replied that the programs should not be mandated at this time, because there is a lack of trained personnel to teach such courses. He also stated that in-service training would be an excellent source for training teachers.

Dr. Bill Curtis, Asst. Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Boards, explained that his organization testified against HB 2142 in its original form in the House; however, he does support HB 2142 in its present form as enabling legislation whereby USD's could enter into contracts with outside agencies to provide programs on alcohol and drug abuse. Dr. Curtis agreed that the problem is a very important social issue, but he did not think the program should be mandated as an additional course in all curriculums. Dr. Curtis informed the Committee of a forthcoming Seminar that KASB will be sponsoring for school board members to make them aware of available resource centers which can help them with alcohol-drug abuse problems. In response to questions, Dr. Curtis replied that the original statute was passed in 1981. He said that he agreed with Mr. Grant that in-service training is a good way to provide for teacher instruction. He emphasized the importance of the program but urged the Committee to allow it to be permissive at the present time.

Mr. Paul Klotz, Executive Director, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, expressed the importance of education in dealing with the problems of alcohol and drug abuse. He said the problem is of great magnitude, and he supports HB 2142.

The Vice-chairperson announced that the hearing on HB 2142 was concluded.

Senator Karr moved, and Senator Warren seconded the motion to approve Committee minutes of March 20. The motion carried.

Vice-chairperson Salisbury adjourned the meeting.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 254-E DATE: Monday, March 25, 1985

GUEST LIST

NAME

ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Gary Buckler	Salata	USIA 232
Chris Graves	Topka	ASK
Charles Bennett	Topka	USD 501#
Bill Curtis	Topka	KASB
Bill Hurts	Wichita	USA. 259
Sam Patterson	Topka	Assoc of CMAC's
Paul Klotz	"	" " "
Kristin Langworthy	Bairie Village	
Kathy Heikes	Scott City	Page
Jacque Wheeler	Scott City	Page
Weather Station	Topka	Page

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 254-E DATE: Monday, March 25, 1985

GUEST LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Mike Slotrup	Lawrence	Dorthern Sr. Parish
Larry Woodward	Topoka	SELF
Jim McHenry	Topoka	SRS/ADAS
Lu Ann Newman	Topoka	Sn. Co. - Alcohol Advisory Council/USD 504
Barbara Rgach	Topoka	NCA
Mary Miree Leonard	Topoka	National Council on Alcoholism
Elizabeth E. Taylor	"	Kansas of Alcos/Drug Prog Div
Richard Heiker	Scott City	USD 466
Craig Grant	Lawrence	H-NEA
Larry Jones	Mt. Hope, Mo	Self
Bob Johnson	Topoka	United School Admin.
Brad Ramsey	Scott City	Page
Wanda J. Rice	Scott City	Page
M.D. McKeown	TOPEKA	USA



TESTIMONY ON H.B. 2116

by

Bill Curtis, Assistant Executive Director
Kansas Association of School Boards

March 25, 1985

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, we appreciate the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the 300 member boards of the Kansas Association of School Boards. H.B. 2116 was introduced by the House Education Committee at our request. It would change the notification date for discontinuation of contracts.

As many of you will recall, this issue was debated before you last year. The result of that debate was a compromise agreement which established the current law as April 10th and May 10th. As a result of the change enacted last year, the KASB staff proposed that the policy seeking a May 1st date be eliminated from the legislative policies of the association. However, the Legislative Committee, those board members who propose KASB policies, and the Delegate Assembly, those board members who approve KASB policies, both voted overwhelmingly to again ask you to change the last notification date to May 1st. The House Education Committee amended the bill, as a compromise, to May 5th. Board members and administrators find the recruiting process much more satisfactory if it can be accomplished while students seeking teaching positions are still on campus. Most colleges and universities are not in session by the middle of May. Moving the last date back to May 5th would afford boards and administrators more time while the students are still easily located.

H.B. 2116 also seeks to amend the notification dates for administrators. Current law requires the board to notify by April 15th. We would request that you change the dates to April 10th and May 5th to conform with the notification date for teachers. Thank you for allowing us the time to present our views.



STATE OF KANSAS

JOHN CARLIN, GOVERNOR

STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE SERVICES

ROBERT C. HARDER, SECRETARY

2700 WEST 6TH STREET
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66606
(913) 296-3925
KANS-A-N 561-3925

TO: Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Dr. James A. McHenry, Commissioner, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services
Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

RE: HB 2142

DATE March 25, 1985

I am pleased to appear in support of HB 2142, and I applaud its encouragement of programs on alcohol and drug abuse for the students of Kansas. This bill is a logical extension of HB 2514, passed last year, which removes liability of teachers and school officials who refer or report a student to a medical, treatment or social service agency because of alcohol and/or drug abuse.

Schools are a major ally of the Kansas Alcohol and Drug Continuum of Care. Kansas school districts are vitally concerned about the impact that alcohol and drug abuse has on the students' ability to learn. Schools are also interested in diminishing the other undesirable consequences produced by the abuse of alcohol and other drugs, such as vandalism, absenteeism and negative school climate.

HB 2142 would encourage schools to provide a full range of services for students. Service providers in the alcohol and drug abuse Continuum of Care have long been interested in assisting schools with the difficulties they face regarding alcohol and drug use among students. SRS/ADAS supports a number of

initiatives presently active in Kansas schools including the training of School Teams to prevent alcohol and drug abuse and Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD). We provide partial funding to many agencies in Kansas whose services include providing alcohol and drug abuse consultation, training, referral and counseling services to school districts. We believe HB 2142 would further encourage schools to access the services they sense are appropriate to meet the needs of their students.

SRS/ADAS notes with appreciation that the bill makes specific mention of prevention services. It is significant that President Reagan, in his 1984 National Strategy, identifies alcohol and drug abuse prevention as the top priority, and he specifically calls for "priority attention on reaching our young children before they become involved in drugs, including alcohol."

In summary, HB 2142 will provide a clear message that schools can play an important role in addressing the serious problems that our youth are experiencing with alcohol and drug abuse. This bill would encourage more school districts to develop and implement appropriate prevention, intervention and referral systems to steer the youth of Kansas toward healthier and more productive lifestyles.

Thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 2142.

9494B

State Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

Statement Regarding H.B. 2142

1. TITLE

A bill encouraging the provision of a full range of alcohol and drug abuse services for the pupils of Kansas schools.

2. PURPOSE

House Bill 2142, as amended, encourages the provision of alcohol and drug abuse prevention, education, intervention and treatment services for students in Kansas schools.

3. BACKGROUND

Kansas schools are concerned about the impact which alcohol and drug abuse has on the students' ability to learn and on the school climate. This bill would encourage school districts to provide prevention and other services aimed at addressing the alcohol and drug abuse problems of the students.

4. EFFECT OF PASSAGE

HB 2142 will provide a clear message that the school is a prime location to begin to address the serious problems that our students are experiencing with alcohol and drug abuse. This bill could greatly stimulate more school districts to develop and implement appropriate prevention, intervention and referral systems to help the students of Kansas lead a better life. Service providers in the alcohol and drug abuse Continuum of Care have long been interested in assisting schools with the difficulties they face regarding alcohol and drug use among students. SRS/ADAS supports a number of initiatives presently active in Kansas schools including the training of School Teams to prevent alcohol and drug abuse and Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD). We provide partial funding to many agencies in Kansas who may provide consultation, training, referral and counseling services to school districts. We believe HB 2142 would further encourage schools to access the services they sense are appropriate for their students.

5. SRS RECOMMENDATION

The SRS Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services commends the intent of this legislation and encourages favorable consideration.

James A. McHenry, Jr., Ph.D.
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services
Social and Rehabilitation Services
296-3925
03-25-85



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF KANSAS

1700 College
Topeka, Kansas 66621
(913) 354-1394

STATEMENT BY
CHRIS GRAVES
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF KANSAS
(ASK)
IN SUPPORT OF
HB 2142
BEFORE THE
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 25, 1985

ATTACHMENT 3 (3/25)

Representing the Students of:

Emporia State • Fort Hays State • Kansas State • Pittsburg State • University of Kansas • Washburn University • Wichita State

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today. It is nice to be back. My name is Chris Graves. I am the Associate Director of the Associated Students of Kansas. I am here today to express our enthusiastic support for HB 2142. I would also like to offer some amendments to the bill.

ASK has been preaching the virtues of and the need for alcohol education in our schools for several years, usually in conjunction with our efforts to stop an increase in the legal drinking age for 3.2 beer. Our reasoning has been that education, started in the elementary grades which addresses the physical and social aspects of and legal consequences for alcohol use and abuse, would be far more effective in curbing the misuse of alcohol by young people than raising the drinking age from 18 to 21. Of what consequence do we really think raising the legal drinking age will have when the fact is that 11 is the average age at which our Kansas youth take their first drink of alcohol. Obviously, education and prevention are needed before a child turns 11, or before the 6th grade, so that problems are less likely to develop in the teen years and beyond.

Some may suggest that such courses do not belong in the schools - that such instruction should be given by the parents in the home. I would agree that parents must shoulder the major part of this responsibility; but too many parents themselves are uneducated in this area and others only confuse their children more by the mixed messages they send in their advice compared to their actions (in other words, they don't practice what they preach).

Schools do have a place and a responsibility to educate our children about alcohol. Programs in our schools must be comprehensive - include clear policies, an integrated K-12 curriculum and positive peer programs. Currently,

few school districts have these comprehensive programs and other existing services are fragmented and limited. Less than 30% of the 307 Kansas school districts have ANY type of ongoing alcohol/drug abuse curriculum or other type of prevention program.

I've included at the back of my testimony three further documents which speak in support of implementing such programs in our schools. The first is a survey conducted by ASK last year as part of its Alcohol Education Project. Question 7 asked whether courses on alcohol use and abuse should be a mandatory part of elementary and/or high school curriculums. Nine-hundred-seventy-four students responded to the survey statewide; of that, 59% answered yes, that such courses should be a mandatory part of curriculums. On some campuses, as many as 75% of those surveyed thought such courses should be required.

The second document is a survey of the general population and of parents done recently by The Salina Journal about the Salina Public School system. One question asked what were the biggest problems with which the Salina schools must deal. Both segments responded that drugs and alcohol were the number one problem. Another question asked whether high schools should offer instruction in drug and alcohol abuse and whether those courses should be required. Eighty-five percent of the general population and ninety-three percent of the parents felt that such education should be offered.

The third document included in my testimony is a copy of a letter, sent to Dr. McHenry, the Commissioner, from a concerned parent and former worker in the Salina schools. She supports increased funding for prevention programs in the schools because she has seen the difference these programs have made in the schools and the positive effect they have had on the students.

I would now like to turn to the bill itself and the amendments we would

like to offer.

First, we would propose amending the bill back to its original form in lines 25-26, "The board of education of every school district SHALL provide for programs..."

Second, we would propose further amending the bill after the words, "...from attendance at school.." (lines 29-30) by adding the sentence, "Such programs shall include but are not limited to abuse prevention instruction in a required course at each of the elementary, junior high and high school levels of education."

Supporters of the motion in the House Education Committee to make the language in the bill permissive rather than mandatory did not want to dictate to the school districts what should be taught. Yet, by and large, school districts are not offering this important education, education which we feel to be just as important to a student as most anything else. Our second proposed amendment partially addresses this concern as we ask that this information be incorporated into already existing required courses, such as physical education or health. No new courses need be developed. The balance of our second amendment insures that each student will receive this instruction at least 3 times during his or her K-12 schooling.

Third, we would like to suggest that some reporting mechanism be incorporated into the bill whereby school districts would report to either the Board of Education or ADAS a description of the alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs provided. Currently, no statewide catalog of these courses being offered exists.

Fourth, and finally, we hope funding does not become an issue during your deliberations in the merits of this bill. Lines 30-33 allows school districts

to enter into contracts for such programs and may pay the fees for such from the general fund of the school district. If this Committee feels that the cost of alcohol education programs in the schools would be so large as to be prohibitive, may we suggest a POSSIBLE source of funding be the monies generated through the expansion of the 10% drink tax on cereal malt beverages sold in private clubs, a provision which was included in the drinking age bill passed by the Senate last week.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman for this chance to appear today. I will be happy to answer any questions.



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF KANSAS

1700 College
Topeka, Kansas 66621
(913) 354-1304

ALCOHOL EDUCATION PROJECT STUDENT SURVEY

SURVEY 1

1. Do you know of any alcohol or drug abuse prevention or treatment programs on your campus or in your community?
Yes 524 (54%) No 434 (45%)
2. Which of the following contains more alcohol?
Mixed drink with 1 and 1/2 ounces of liquor? 374 (38%)
12 ounce can of beer? 43 (4%) 5 ounce glass of wine? 67 (7%)
They are all the same. 454 (47%)
3. Presently, Kansas law requires a minimum mandatory jail sentence of 48 hours or 100 hours of public service work for a first conviction of Driving While Intoxicated (DWI).
True 580 (60%) False 361 (37%)
4. The level of blood alcohol content at which a person is considered legally drunk is _____.
5. At bars or parties you attend, how often are non-alcoholic beverages served?
Always 236 (24%) Usually 270 (28%) Sometimes 218 (22%)
Seldom 170 (17%) Never 56 (6%)
6. What do you think the legal drinking age for 3.2 beer should be in Kansas?
Under 18 58 (6%) 18 735 (75%) 19 94 (10%)
20 19 (2%) 21 68 (7%) Over 21 11 (1%)
7. Do you think courses on alcohol use and abuse should be a mandatory part of elementary and/or high school curriculums?
Yes 570 (59%) No 375 (39%)
8. How serious do you think the problem of alcohol abuse is on your campus?
Very serious 100 (10%) Serious 353 (36%)
Minor problem 366 (38%) No problem 52 (5%)
9. Do you think that there are enough healthy alternatives to drinking-oriented activities on campus or in the community?
Yes 514 (53%) No 421 (43%)
10. What is your age? Place of Residence? Sex?
18 181 (19%) 21-25 252 (26%) University Housing 275 (28%) M 427 (44%)
19 179 (18%) Over 25 110 (11%) Fraternity or Sorority 313 (32%) F 517 (53%)
20 139 (14%) Off-campus 271 (28%)
21 106 (11%) Parent's home 86 (9%)

Representing the Students of:

University of Kansas • Fort Hays State • Kansas State • Pittsburg State • Central State • University of Kansas • Washburn University • Wichita State

Attitudes toward education in Salina

Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, and FAIL to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the Salina Public Schools themselves were graded in the same way. What grade would you give the public schools — A, B, C, D, or FAIL?

	Salina	Salina Parents
A	13	16
B	54	55
C	18	20
D	1	1
F	0	0
Unsure	13	8

In your opinion, in what ways are the public schools in Salina particularly good?

	Salina	Salina Parents
Teachers	22	33
Courses/Curriculum	18	31
Everything	9	11
Principals/Administrators	5	6
Other	9	12
Don't know	39	23

(May not total 100 percent)

What are the biggest problems with which the Salina schools must deal?

	Salina	Salina Parents
Drugs and Alcohol	37	37
Discipline	12	19
Lack of parental support	8	7
Low standards (School too easy)	7	8
Lack of money	8	3
Other	4	20
Don't know	18	17

(May not total 100 percent)

Suppose the Salina public schools said they needed much more money. As you feel at this time, would you vote to raise taxes for this purpose?

	Salina	Salina Parents
Yes	46	50
No	39	37
Unsure	14	13

In general, do you think elementary children in Salina schools are made to work too hard in school and on homework, or not hard enough?

	Salina	Salina Parents
Too hard	5	7
Not hard enough	65	66
About right	7	10
Don't know	22	17

What about students in the public high schools here — in general, are they required to work too hard or not hard enough?

	Salina	Salina Parents
Too hard	5	5
Not hard enough	65	57
About right	3	3
Don't know	27	35

A proposal has been made to make child care centers available for all pre-school children as part of the public school system. This program would be supported by taxes. Would you favor or oppose such a program?

	Salina	Salina Parents
Favor	41	42
Oppose	50	52
Don't know	9	6

As you look back on your own school years, do you think today's children get a better education

In addition to regular courses, high schools offer instruction in other areas. Do you feel this instruction should be required or should not be required of all high school students?

(In favor of requiring)

	Salina	Salina Parents
Drug abuse	85	93
Alcohol abuse	82	83
Driver education	66	76
Computer training	65	64
Parenting	46	44
Nuclear waste dangers	56	59
Race relations	55	47
Communism/Socialism	55	47
Nuclear war dangers	52	47

Since September, which of the following, if any, have you yourself done?

	Salina	Salina Parents
Attended athletic event	32	43
Attended play or concert	34	62
Met with teacher/admin.	28	68
Attended PTA meeting	19	48
Attended board meeting	4	7
Written letter to board or newspaper about schools	3	7
None of the above	33	11

(Totals more than 100 percent)

Should teachers be paid on the basis of the quality of their work, or on a standard-scale basis?

	Salina	Salina Parents
Quality of work	62	64
Standard scale	29	29
Don't know	9	7

If the Salina School Board said they needed to raise taxes in order to give merit pay raises to teachers, would you vote to raise taxes?

	Salina	Salina Parents
Yes	54	61
No	36	28
Don't know	10	10

Suppose you could choose your child's teachers. Assuming they all had about the same experiences and training, what personal qualities would you look for?

1. Able to discipline, be firm and fair
2. Patient and understanding
3. Able to communicate, to relate
4. Interested in child as individual
5. Highly educated, competent
6. Good moral example

Do you favor extending by one hour the length of the school day?

	Salina	Salina Parents
Yes	32	36
No	54	56
Don't know	13	8

How much do you know about the local schools — quite a lot, some, or very little?

	Salina	Salina Parents
Quite a lot	18	36
Some	42	45
Very little	37	17
Nothing	2	0

*Less than 1 percent

2624 Bret
Salina, KS 67401
February 18, 1985

Dr. James A. McHenry, Jr., Commissioner
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services
2700 W. 6th
Biddle Building
Topeka, KS 66606

Dear Dr. McHenry:

I fully support the need for more prevention programs in the school in Kansas and support the need for increased funding to keep these programs going and to develop new ones.

Being a parent and having worked in the schools in Salina, I know these prevention programs work. I can see the difference these programs have made in the schools and the effect they have had on the students.

More time should be spent working with children in the elementary and junior high schools warning them against drug and alcohol use and building their self concept so they can overcome peer pressure. Waiting until they are in high school is too late!

The concept of School Team Training is an excellent one -- one which needs to be made available to all the schools. Teachers represent a very important part of the students' life and it's up to them to set a good example for the students. Not just in the subject they teach, but in their attitudes in general. Having been around several teachers who have taken part in School Team Training I can see a definite difference in the way they treat other members of their staff and the way they treat students now compared to what they did in the past. They are making strides to work with the students and to see the positive side of things, not always the negative side. It has improved the attitude of the student body as well as the attitude of the staff. It is really amazing the difference it has made.

All Star Training is another area which should be expanded to include as many schools and students as possible. Students need to feel good about themselves and the things they do. Too many students do not get the positive support they need from home so they turn to their peers. This in turn may lead to drug or alcohol use. By teaching students to feel

Dr. James McHenry
February 18, 1985
Page 2

good about themselves and others they can pass this feeling on to others. By becoming involved in school activities, students with a positive outlook will influence others toward the positive side.

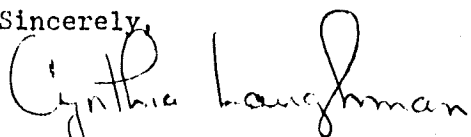
All Star Training is something that should be started in grade school or junior high not high school. Like they say "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Working now with these prevention programs will save a lot money in the future trying to straighten someone out who has been on drugs or turned to alcohol.

Another important part of prevention is parent education. Fund should be made available for schools to form Parent Support Groups. Many parents don't know how to give the love and support students need. If parents don't feel good about themselves then they can't feel good about their children. Positive reinforcement needs to come from home and by forming parent support groups parents learn how to give this positive reinforcement which is so desperately needed by children. Through parent support groups parents can see what other students are doing and can understand a little more about peer pressure and help their students cope with it.

I hope the State Department will see fit to continue to provide funds for prevention programs in Kansas. The School Team Training programs, All Star Training programs, Parent Support Groups, and the prevention programs presented on developing self concept, coping with peer pressure and those dealing with factual information about harmful chemicals are vitally needed in the schools today. It's easier to spend the time and money working towards prevention now, then waiting until it's too late and wondering where we went wrong.

Our future lies with our children. Let's help them grow up to be responsible, caring adults by starting early with prevention programs rather than waiting until it's too late and then trying to "straighten out society."

Sincerely,


Cynthia Laughman

My name is Larry Woodward. I am a life-long resident of Shawnee County. I am here to testify in behalf of House Bill 21-42.

I am the father of three children, all of whom attend School District 437.

In November of 1983, I received a telephone call from the Vice-Principal at Washburn Rural High School letting me know that my son had been suspected of smoking Marijuana BEFORE SCHOOL and the school personnel had verified their suspicions when they found the evidence in the ash tray of his car. The pain we experienced as a family was tremendous, as none of our children had ever had any serious illness or troubles. The school counselor was supportive as he told me they would do all they could to help find another school for my son to attend. We simply accepted that he had broken a rule and needed to be punished.

We did all the things we thought we should do. We enrolled him in Hayden High School where we found everyone to be very supportive. We sought and received counseling at the Menninger Foundation. All the people involved told us what we wanted to hear. Our son was a "normal adolescent" who was feeling some what distraut over the fact that his mother and I had divorced earlier in his life.

The year to follow was a disaster we watched every move of our son. We searched his car and literally made him feel like a criminal. During this time his grades in school were a little lower but still average. He followed the rules. During the summer he worked as an assistant greenskeeper at the Public Golf Course. He got himself up and was to work everyday at 6:00 am. His boss was very pleased with his work.

He did all he could do to please us and hide his problem. We knew something wasn't right. Almost a year later we again found evidence he had been smoking marijuana.

I might add that during this period of time one of his classmates had committed suicide and another of his best friends took a lethal dose of his grandmothers pills but was fortunate enough to be taken to the hospital in time to save his life.

As a parent I felt worried, scared, helpless and like a complete failure, knowing something was wrong but not knowing what to do.....

With the knowledge that he had been smoking marijuana again, we took him to the National Council of Alcoholism. An hour and a half later, we heard for the first time that our son was chemically dependent. A sixteen year old Alcoholic and Drug Addict.

From that point on, our problems have begun to be resolved. We went to treatment at St. John's Hospital in Salina. The education we received was a real eye opener. I am happy to say, my son has almost a half-year of sobriety. Our family understands the dangers and the symptoms of the disease.

My basic point is while all the people at both schools were wanting to help us as much as we wanted to be helped, they are not trained to recognize the disease, subsequently, making it easier for all of to deny this harsh reality.

We need a mandate to teach our children the facts about chemical dependency. Prevent the disease and the annual graduation time tragedy of our young people being crippled and killed in alcohol related accidents. Kids are bright enough to make good choices if they have good information. As society exists, most of the information our children receive is "How to feel better", through the advertisements of our drug and alcohol industry.

I would also hope that students who are desperate enough to be using alcohol and drugs before or during school would be viewed as someone needing intervention rather than being suspended or expelled.

In my workplace, by policy, we send our employees home for using drugs and alcohol on the job. But also, by policy, we make help available to them and their family through referral to trained professionals. I believe our children deserve the same opportunities.

I am sad that my son is an alcoholic, but I am also relieved that our family has the information and understanding we need to be supportive as I am completely convinced that my son would not be alive today if we hadn't finally found the expertise to help us solve our problem. Thank you, National Council on Alcoholism!!