

Approved March 5, 1987  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by SENATOR JOSEPH C. HARDER at  
Chairperson

1:30 ~~a.m.~~p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 1987 in room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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:

SB 310 - An act concerning school districts; authorizing the development and operation of at risk pupil assistance programs (Education)

Proponents:

Ms. Carolyn Schmitt, President, Kansas-National Education Association  
Mr. James E. Copple, Legislative Director, Wichita Federation of Teachers  
Mr. Gerald W. Henderson, Executive Director, United School Administrators  
Mr. John Koepke, Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Boards

HB 2106 - School district finance; budget limitations for the 1987-88 school year

Committee discussion and possible consideration

After Chairman Joseph C. Harder called the meeting to order, Senator Salisbury moved, and Senator Arasmith seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Committee meeting of March 3. The motion carried.

The Chairman then announced that due to a time constraint on Monday, March 2, most of the conferees who were scheduled to testify on SB 310 were unable to do so, and they have since been notified that the hearing on SB 310 will be continued today. He then recognized Ms. Carolyn Schmitt as the first conferee on SB 310.

SB 310 - Ms. Schmitt, President of the Kansas-National Education Association, testifying in support of SB 310, explained how changes in American society have contributed to the increasingly complex challenges facing the schools. She said that if at risk students are to succeed, extraordinary intervention may be needed. She described how NEA members have begun an effort to dramatically cut the drop-out rate in her testimony found in Attachment 1.

Mr. James E. Copple, Wichita Federation of Teachers, emphasized that the number of at risk students is growing at alarming proportions and reported that the Department of Education has projected a national dropout rate of 35 percent by 1991. (Attachment 2)

Mr. Gerald W. Henderson, Executive Director of United School Administrators of Kansas, stated that his organization is supportive of efforts to provide for the needs of "at risk" students in a time when the push for higher standards in our high schools threatens to further frustrate kids who struggle academically. (Attachment 3) Mr. Henderson said that without funds to really address the problem, it would be a hit and miss effort. In response to a Committee question, Mr. Henderson made reference to an IBM program that is available for helping "at risk" students and said he would be supportive of a combined schools-private industries partnership to implement such a program.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,

room 254-E, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~am~~<sup>pm</sup> on Wednesday, March 4, 19 87

Testifying as a proponent of SB 310, Mr. John Koepke, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of School Boards, said that although his organization supports the concept of SB 310, which, he stated, is similar to the remedial program that had been introduced earlier this year by Senator Mulich, (SB 206), he expressed concern regarding the fiscal note. He said he felt that full funding of existing programs and adequate SDEA appropriations should take precedence over funding for a new program. Mr. Koepke recommended that additional research be made regarding remedial programs and suggested that this subject be studied during the interim. (Attachment 4)

The Chairman commented that although he thought the remedial concept contained in SB 310 to be a very worthwhile program, the fiscal note on SB 310 indicates that state aid for at risk pupil assistance programs would be from the State General Fund; and, therefore, he felt the program could not be implemented at this time due to fiscal constraints of the budget. The Chairman, referring to earlier testimony, said that a combined schools-private industries partnership might make this a feasible program.

Hearing no further requests for testimony on SB 310, the Chairman announced that the hearing on SB 310 was concluded and that the bill would be taken under advisement.

HB 2106 — The Chairman then asked the Committee to turn its attention to HB 2106, regarding school finance, and announced that the Committee would discuss and take possible action regarding the House amendments to HB 2106. The first amendment to which the Chair made reference relates to the additional levying and spending authority for certain school districts in the 1987-88 and 1988-89 school years. The Chairman said that the amendment addresses SB 83 which had been introduced at the request of a Johnson County delegation but that the bill was no longer needed following a successful March 3 mill levy election. In response to Committee inquiry, the Chairman stated that he had received requests from no other no-aid school district regarding this provision. When he asked the Committee's pleasure, Senator Aramith moved that the amendment allowing additional levying and spending authority for certain school districts in the 1987-88 and 1988-89 school years (Sections 3 and 5) be stricken from the bill. The motion was seconded by Senator Parrish, and the motion carried.

The Chair referred the Committee's attention to the provision of HB 2106 which allows for the deposit of certain revenues in the school district General Fund. This provision, the Chairman explained, would apply only in those years in which there was an allocation system or an appropriations lapse. The provision, he added, would become effective this year. Hearing no motions from the floor, the Chair ruled that this provision will remain in the bill.

The Chairman next inquired of the Committee if it wished to support the House amendment setting the permanent budget controls at 103 percent and 106 percent. In responding to a Committee question, Ms. Avis Swartzman, from the Revisor of Statutes office, replied that at the suggestion of Representative Don Crumbaker the House Committee had changed these controls to 103% and 106% in response to the economic conditions of the time. In response to further Committee questions, Mr. Dale Dennis, Assistant Commissioner of Education, State Department of Education, replied that only once has the control gone lower than 105%, it has remained the same for five times, and it has gone above 115% six times.

Senator Parrish made a motion to return the permanent budget controls to 105% and 115%. The motion was seconded by Senator Karr. Senator Montgomery then made a substitute motion to set the permanent budget controls at 103% and 109%. This was seconded by Senator Allen, and the Chairman ruled that the motion had carried.

Due to lack of time the Chairman announced that the Committee would continue further consideration of the House amendments to HB 2106, as well as budget lids for the 1987-88 school year, at a meeting tomorrow. He then adjourned the meeting.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday,

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: 254-E

DATE: March 4, 1987

GUEST LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Karen Funk	Topeka	WELL #232
Jay Ellis	Topeka	K-NEA
Carolyn Schmitt	Topeka	K-NEA
Kathryn Dossert	Wichita	USD 259
Ernie Dunsitt	Topeka	USD 501 #
Jim Youally	Overland Park	USD #512
Selen Stephens	Topeka	USD #500
John W. Kozlowski	Topeka	KASB
M. Hucwa	"	Car-Jou

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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NAME

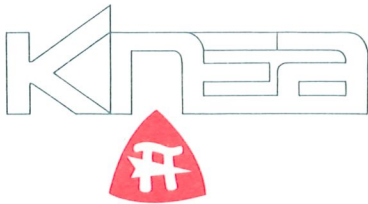
ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Luth Wilbur	Tapeba	AAUP
Mary Ellen Lima	Tapeba	Leg. of Women Voters
Jo Cynle	Wichita	WFT
Barbara Turnbull	Shawnee, Ks	Private Citizen
Serald Wilbur	TOPEKA	USA
Keno Roney	Paola	SBE
Connie Hubert	Tapeba	St Bd of Ed.
John Brubaker	Buhler	

Carolyn Schmitt Testimony Before The  
Senate Education Committee

March 2, 1987



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Carolyn Schmitt, and I am the president of the Kansas-National Education Association. I am appearing as a proponent of Senate Bill 310.

The proliferation of proposals for programs to deal with "at risk" students has led some members of the public and perhaps even some members of this committee to question why the schools aren't already dealing adequately with these students. A look at some of the changes in American society will demonstrate the increasingly complex challenges facing the schools and all of us.

Two decades ago, 60% of the households in this country were made up of a working husband, housewife mother, and two school-age children. By 1980 that type of household had fallen to 11% and in the 1985 revision of the census, had declined further to 7%. This is a dramatic change--it means far fewer parents have time to become really involved in their child's education or in support of their public schools.

The increase in the number of children coming from single parent homes--especially those headed by a single female parent--is also an increase in the number of children coming from poverty-stricken homes. 80% of the increase in poverty in this country is reflected in female single-parent homes. In the last decade we've seen an increase of at least 2 million children living in poverty.

An increasing number of children in our schools are the children of children. Not only are teen-age mothers at risk--their children are at an even greater risk. In 1984 in the United States 10,000 children were born to mothers under 15.

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Attachment 1

In addition we deal with children whose first language is not English. Two-thirds of all the immigration in the world is to the United States, and about 80% of the immigration in 1985 was evenly split between Mexico and Asia.

In short, the public schools today are in a whole new ballgame.

For at risk students to succeed, extraordinary intervention may be needed.

The members of the NEA have already begun an effort to dramatically cut the drop-out rate. Our goal is to cut the rate in half by 1990. This effort, called Operation Rescue, is funded by our dues dollars. Grants are given to local associations for projects dealing with potential dropouts. In addition, the NEA funds a second program dealing specifically with minority students and we've been pleased to have two of these grants in Kansas.

Research tells us that the best drop-out prevention programs involve a multi-agency approach. However, the focus has to be the school, and the program contemplated in Senate Bill 310 could serve as the catalyst for the creation of such programs.

While the quality of the life of individual children is certainly reason enough for us to be concerned, there is a broader interest. For our economy to be sound, for our state to be stable, and for all our futures to be bright, we must well-educate all the children.

Thank you.

# Wichita Federation of Teachers

Local 725, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 310

James E. Copple  
Legislative Director  
Wichita Federation of Teachers

Mr. Chairman, members of the Senate Education Committee, we applaud the intent of Senate Bill No. 310 and affirm its importance in the education of the children of our state. The American Federation of Teachers has cooperated with the Department of Education in studies which seek to identify the various forces within our society that place students at risk. The at risk student is not new to our community; it is simply that the problem is growing at alarming proportions. The Department of Education has projected that by 1991, we could be looking at a national dropout rate of 35 percent. The more emphasis we place on curriculum reform and the subsequent increase in graduation requirements that usually accompanies such reform, the more students we will see at risk. We must be prepared to resource, counsel and guide students through the changing maze of graduation requirements and vocational expectations. A favorable reading of SB. 310 will put in motion the educational resources that will enable us to assist students who are currently at risk.

This legislation is far-reaching in its impact on our state's public schools. We urge its serious consideration and are willing to assist in its implementation.

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Attachment 2



SB 310

Testimony presented before the Senate Education Committee  
by Gerald W. Henderson, Executive Director  
United School Administrators of Kansas

March 2, 1987

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our position on the establishment of an "at risk pupil assistance program" in Kansas.

We are supportive of efforts to provide for the needs of "at risk" students in a time when the push for higher standards in our high schools threatens to further frustrate kids who struggle academically. An important spin off of the effective school research has been to cause schools to focus on students who score in the third and fourth quartiles on achievement tests, the measure most often used to determine effectiveness.

One school district in this area of Kansas has over the past five years conducted its own study and determined that an actual decline in reading skills has occurred in students in the third and fourth quartile. This decline occurred during grades nine through twelve. Steps are being taken to correct this situation.

Our one problem with SB 310 is that the limited state funds available for education will not allow this needed program to have the wide impact it should have on "at risk" students throughout the state. As was mentioned earlier, many districts have already stepped up efforts to meet the needs of these students. We hope that at some point funds will be available to assist districts in serving all such kids.

GWH/ed

Senate Education  
3/4/87  
Attachment 3



KANSAS  
ASSOCIATION



OF  
SCHOOL  
BOARDS

5401 S. W. 7th Avenue Topeka, Kansas 66606  
913-273-3600

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 310  
BEFORE THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By

CYNTHIA K. LUTZ, STAFF LEGAL COUNSEL  
Kansas Association of School Boards

March 2, 1987

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of our member school districts.

We support the concept embodied in Senate Bill No. 310 and agree that education must make an effort to respond to the needs of at risk students. However, in a year where money is particularly tight, we feel the full-funding of existing programs and adequate SDEA appropriations should take priority over the funding of a new program. We also believe that more study of this concept should be undertaken to determine both the need for and the cost and effectiveness of such programs.

Therefore, we request that you refer Senate Bill 310 to an interim committee for further study.

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Attachment 4