

Approved April 13, 1991
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Representative Rick Bowden at
Chairperson

3:30 ~~a.m.~~^{XXX} p.m. on April 1, 1991 in room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Rep. Blumenthal, Pottorff, Larkin, Empson - All Excused

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes Office
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Dale Dennis, Kansas Department of Education
Donna Luttjohann, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Merle Hill, KS Community College Association
Elizabeth Miller, Student
Chuck Stuart, USA
Mark Tallman, KASB
Connie Hubbell, KS Board of Education
Sen. Frahm
Pat Baker, KASB
Craig Grant, KNEA
Jerry Henderson, USA

Chairman Bowden opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

The Chairman then opened the hearing for SB 101. Dr. Merle Hill was the first proponent of the bill. He stated that students enrolling in college courses while in high school get a head start on college. (Attachment 1)

The next proponent was Elizabeth Miller, a student from Kansas City Kansas Community College. She spoke on her experiences as a high school student taking college classes at the present time. She said she was in the honors program at her high school and that the college classes were a challenge to her; a challenge she chose to accept. She stated she hoped the program continues as it is an opportunity in her education to take courses not offered in her high school.

Charles Stuart, USA, was the next proponent of the bill. He stated one of the key purposes of this bill is to encourage students who might not consider post-secondary training to give it a try while still in high school. (Attachment 2)

Testifying in favor of the bill was Mark Tallman, KASB. He stated it is desirable to encourage the concept of dual credit when students are enrolled for both secondary and postsecondary education credits. (Attachment 3)

Connie Hubbell, State Board of Education, was the next proponent. She noted the State Board of Education had discussed SB 101 and believes it will help increase the opportunities for high school juniors and seniors in furthering their education. (Attachment 4)

Senator Frahm commented on the bill and hoped the committee would pass it favorably out of committee. She submitted a copy of testimony from Dr. Joseph Roberts of Labette Community College. (Attachment 5)

The hearing on SB 101 was closed and the hearing for SB 143 was opened.

The first conferee was Pat Baker, KASB. She stated that the bill would expedite the due process hearings for teachers. She offered amendments to the bill. (Attachment 6)

CONTINUATION SHEET
EDUCATION

HOUSE

MINUTES OF THE _____ COMMITTEE ON _____
519-S 3:30 XXX April 1 91
room _____, Statehouse, at _____ a.m./p.m. on _____, 19__

Charles Stuart, USA, was the next proponent of SB 143. Mr. Stuart thought making the process quicker when a teacher is in a questionable position is beneficial for the educational process. (Attachment 7)

Craig Grant, KNEA, offered his support for the bill and hoped for favorable passage out of committee.

The hearing was closed on SB 143 and opened on SB 191. Mr. Jerry Henderson, USA, was the first proponent of the bill. He stated that early intervention with at-risk students pays hugh dividends in human potential and in savings to the taxpayer. (Attachment 8)

Mark Tallman, KASB, was also proponent of the bill. He said that SB 191 addresses the importance of early childhood education appropriately. (Attachment 9)

The last conferee was Connie Hubbell, KS Board of Education. She also was a proponent of the bill. She stated the Perry Preschool Project in Colorado was the most complete cost-benefit analysis of early childhood education yet undertaken. (Attachment 10)

Chairman Bowden then noted written testimony from Robert Stephan, Attorney General, who did not appear before the committee. (Attachment 11)

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, 1991 in room 519-S at 3:30 p.m.



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Jayhawk Tower, Suite 901 • 700 S.W. Jackson • Topeka, KS 66603

W. Merle Hill
Executive Director

Phone 913/357-5156
Fax 913/357-5157

To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

From: MERLE HILL

Date: APRIL 1, 1991

Subj: SENATE BILL NO. 101, An act concerning education; authorizing agreements between school districts and institutions of postsecondary education for the purpose of encouraging enrollment by certain secondary pupils in courses of postsecondary education.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. I am Merle Hill, executive director of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to support Senate Bill No. 101 in behalf of the trustees, administrators, faculty, and students associated with the 19 Kansas community colleges.

High school pupils have been enrolling simultaneously at community colleges in Kansas for some thirty years. To enroll, a pupil must have the permission of the high school principal, and principals are not likely to permit less-than-talented pupils to enroll for college credit while still in high school. To date, thousands of high school pupils have earned college credits while still in high school, and there are more than 2,000 high school pupils currently enrolled in such courses at the community colleges.

Nationwide, high school pupils who enroll for college classes do as well as or better than college freshmen. They get a head start on their college careers and usually continue to earn excellent grades and, frequently, become student leaders when they do enroll as college students after graduation from high school.

The Kansas Association of Community Colleges supports Senate Bill No. 101 and recommends that the Committee act favorably on it.

I shall be happy to stand for any questions Committee members may have.

HOUSE EDUCATION
Attachment 1
April 1, 1991



SB 101

April 1, 1991

Testimony presented before the House Committee on Education
by Charles L. "Chuck" Stuart
Legislative Liaison
United School Administrators of Kansas

Mister Chairman and members of the Committee. United School Administrators of Kansas supports the concepts of **SB 101** which allows qualified students in grades eleven and twelve to be enrolled in classes simultaneously providing credit toward high school and post-secondary graduation. There are school districts providing such dual credit at this time, but the financing provided in this bill has not been previously available.

One of the key purposes of this bill is to encourage students who might not consider post-secondary training to give it a try while still in high school. We encourage the committee to recommend **SB 101** favorably for passage.

SB101/gwh

HOUSE EDUCATION
Attachment 2
April 1, 1991



**Testimony on S.B. 101
before the
House Committee on Education**

by

**Mark Tallman
Coordinator of Governmental Relations
Kansas Association of School Boards**

April 1, 1991

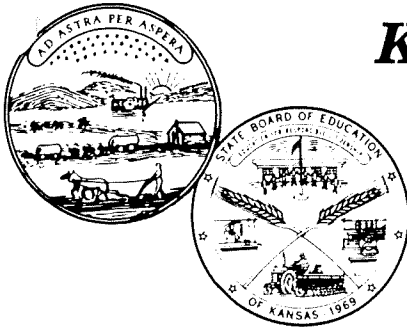
Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the member boards of education of the Kansas Association of School Boards in support of S.B. 101. We believe it is desirable to encourage the concept of dual credit when students are enrolled for both secondary and postsecondary education credits and we believe that Senate Bill 101 appropriately addresses the issue of funding those dual credits.

We have previously expressed concerns about the issue of using public funds for postsecondary private institutions. We support the bill's provisions that restrict tuition reimbursement to private institutions to the highest level charged by public institutions of higher education.

With that reservation, we would express our support for S.B. 101 and urge its adoption by the Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

HOUSE EDUCATION
Attachment 3
April 1, 1991



Kansas State Board of Education

Kansas State Education Building (913) 296-3203

120 East 10th Street Topeka, Kansas 66612-1103

Mildred McMillon
District 1

Connie Hubbell
District 4

Bill Musick
District 6

Evelyn Whitcomb
District 8

Kathleen White
District 2

I. B. "Sonny" Rundell
District 5

Wanda Morrison
District 7

Timothy R. Emert
District 9

Paul D. Adams
District 3

Gwen Nelson
District 10

April 1, 1991

TO: House Education Committee
FROM: State Board of Education
SUBJECT: 1991 Senate Bill 101

My name is Connie Hubbell, Legislative Chairman of the State Board of Education. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Committee on behalf of the State Board.

The State Board of Education has discussed Senate Bill 101 and believes it will help increase the opportunities for high school juniors and seniors in furthering their education. Many students have completed their major requirements for high school graduation by their senior year and are qualified and have the desire to enroll in college courses. This program will benefit the student, the unified school district, the university, and the state as a whole in assisting students to reach their potential.

The State Board is particularly pleased that arrangements have been provided in the bill for those students who are least able to afford this program.

This type of legislation provides yet another linkage between the various segments of our educational system, linkages whose main purpose is to provide students greater opportunities for success.

HOUSE EDUCATION
Attachment 4
April 1, 1991

SHEILA FRAHM

DISTRICT 40

CHEYENNE, DECATUR, GOVE, GRAHAM,
LOGAN, RAWLINS, SCOTT, SHERIDAN,
SHERMAN, THOMAS, WALLACE, WICHITA
COUNTIES

985 S. RANGE
COLBY, KANSAS 67701

(913) 462-6948—HOME



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIRPERSON: JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE
RULES AND REGULATIONS
VICE CHAIRPERSON: EDUCATION
MEMBER: AGRICULTURE
ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

4-1-91

SB 101 DUAL CREDITS

House Education Committee
Representative Rick Bowden, Chairman

Mr. Chairman and Member of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to review SB 101. This bill provides incentives for postsecondary enrollment for certain pupils in grades 11 or 12 of school districts. The student may receive credit for such classes for both secondary and post secondary programs. In order to qualify for participation, the pupil must have demonstrated scholastic ability, have been authorized by the principal of the school to apply for enrollment at an eligible postsecondary education institution, and have been determined to be acceptable for enrollment at the institution.

School districts are authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with eligible postsecondary education institutions (State Board of Regents' schools, community colleges, Washburn University, and accredited independent institutions). Agreements to include: 1. academic credit to be granted for the course; 2. course work qualify as credit applicable toward a degree; and 3. that the school district, pupil and state will each pay one-third of the tuition due for such enrollment. A student may qualify for financial need and the eligibility would be the same as for free or reduced price meals.

BENEFITS:

1. Student -- college credit, proven success - "I did it", "senioritis"
2. Parents -- costs, reassurance of ability and intent for future \$\$\$ committment
3. Schools -- intentional communication, good PR
4. Colleges -- recruitment, articulation
5. Society -- equity and access, investment, produces productive / potential tax payer up to one year sooner

Other conferees to identify the potential value. Specifically, I would like to note the comments of Dr. Josphe Roberts, President, Labette Community College who could not attend today. His unsolicited statement is attached. He attests to the benefits that he has seen.

Concern: State's committment of approximately \$650,000. Dale Dennis will provide an updated fiscal statement. Often we have heard that the student or their parents should pay for this opportunity anyway. I hate to eliminate the opportunities for some students; but in this tight fiscal year we could provide a way for the program to begin without state expense.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 101.

HOUSE EDUCATION
Attachment 5
April 1, 1991



LABETTE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE
200 South Fourteenth • Parsons, Kansas 67357
Telephone (316) 421-6700

February 4, 1991

The Honorable Fred Kerr
Route 2
Pratt, KS 67124

Dear Senator Kerr:

I understand that you will initiate legislation to facilitate high school students receiving college credit while in high school. In the past, I have been involved with such programs in Arizona and Virginia. They work very well, benefiting the students, high schools, and community colleges while saving a great deal of money for the taxpayers.

You may find the enclosed booklets useful in convincing others of the value of these programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Roberts", is written over the typed name.

Joseph H. Roberts, Ed.D.
President

Enclosures

ct



Testimony on S.B. 143
before the
House Committee on Education

by

Patricia E. Baker
Associate Executive Director/General Counsel
Kansas Association of School Boards

April 1, 1991

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to appear in support of Senate Bill 143. The provisions of this bill would ensure a more expeditious handling of due process hearings for teachers. Currently there is no timeline required for holding a hearing on the nonrenewal or termination of a teacher. The result is often that hearings are not held until a new school year has begun. In some instances the time between notice of nonrenewal and the actual hearing is in excess of a year.

The actual time lapse between notification of intent to nonrenew and the hearing is eighty (80) days plus whatever time a judge may take to appoint a chairman if that situation occurs.

We believe that is ample time for both parties to prepare for a hearing.

Further, the hearing committee has thirty days in which to render an opinion. This extends the time from the board action of intent to nonrenew to 110 days if everything goes smoothly.

We believe due process is only effective if provided in a timely manner. The provisions of S.B. 143 are fair to all concerned. We ask that you recommend the bill favorably for passage.

I recommend that the amendment shown on the attached be adopted. Since the board of education is charged with ensuring that due process is granted to the teacher, we feel they should have the right to seek appointment of a hearing committee chairman.

Thank you.

SENATE BILL No. 143

By Committee on Education

2-6

8 AN ACT concerning teachers; imposing a period of time requirement
9 for the holding of hearings provided upon notice of nonrenewal
10 or termination of contracts of employment; amending K.S.A. 72-
11 5439 and K.S.A. 1990 Supp. 72-5438 and repealing the existing
12 sections.
13

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

15 Section 1. K.S.A. 1990 Supp. 72-5438 is hereby amended to read
16 as follows: 72-5438. (a) Whenever a teacher is given written notice
17 of intention by a board to not renew or to terminate the contract
18 of the teacher as provided in K.S.A. 72-5437, and amendments
19 thereto, the written notice of the proposed nonrenewal or termi-
20 nation shall include (1) a statement of the reasons for the proposed
21 nonrenewal or termination, and (2) a statement that the teacher may
22 have the matter heard by a hearing committee upon written request
23 filed with the clerk of the board of education or the board of control
24 or the secretary of the board of trustees within 15 *calendar* days
25 from the date of such notice of nonrenewal or termination.

26 (b) The written request of ~~the~~ a teacher to be heard *as provided*
27 *in subsection (a)* shall include ~~therein~~ a designation of one hearing
28 committee member. Upon the filing of any such request, the board
29 shall designate, within 15 *calendar* days thereafter, one hearing com-
30 mittee member. The two hearing committee members shall designate
31 a third hearing committee member who shall be the chairperson and
32 who shall in all cases be a resident of the state of Kansas. In the
33 event that the two hearing committee members are unable to agree
34 upon a third hearing committee member within five *calendar* days
35 after the designation of the second hearing committee member, a
36 district judge of the home county of the school district, area voca-
37 tional-technical school or community college shall appoint *as expe-*
38 *ditiously as possible*, upon application of the teacher or either of the
39 first two hearing committee members, the third hearing committee
40 member. Such appointment may be made by the district judge from
41 a list, which shall be compiled and maintained by the commissioner
42 of education, of impartial persons who are representative of the
43 public and who are qualified to serve as hearing committee members.

, the board,

1 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 72-5439 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 72-5439. The hearing provided for ~~in~~ *under* K.S.A. 72-5438, *and*
3 *amendments thereto, shall be held within 45 calendar days after the*
4 *designation or appointment of the third hearing committee member*
5 *and shall afford procedural due process, including the following:*

6 (a) The right of each party to have counsel of such party's own
7 choice present and to receive the advice of such counsel or other
8 person whom such party may select; ~~and;~~

9 (b) the right of each party or such party's counsel to cross-examine
10 any person who provides information for the consideration of the
11 hearing committee, except those persons whose testimony is pre-
12 sented by affidavit; ~~and;~~

13 (c) the right of each party to present such party's own witnesses
14 in person, or their testimony by affidavit or deposition, except that
15 testimony of a witness by affidavit may be presented only if such
16 witness lives more than ~~one hundred (100)~~ 100 miles from the
17 location of the unified school district office, area vocational-technical
18 school or community ~~junior~~ college, or is absent from the state, or
19 is unable to appear because of age, illness, infirmity or imprisonment.
20 When testimony is presented by affidavit the same shall be served
21 upon the clerk of the board of education or the board of control,
22 or the secretary of the board of trustees, or the agent of the board
23 and upon the teacher in person or by first class mail to the address
24 of the teacher which is on file with the board not less than ~~ten (10)~~
25 10 calendar days prior to presentation to the hearing committee;
26 ~~and;~~

27 (d) the right of the teacher to testify in ~~his or her~~ *the teacher's*
28 own behalf and give reasons for ~~his or her~~ *the teacher's* conduct,
29 and the right of the board to present its testimony through such
30 persons as it may call to testify in its behalf and to give reasons for
31 its actions, rulings or policies; ~~and;~~

32 (e) the right of the parties to have an orderly hearing; *and*

33 (f) the right of the teacher to a fair and impartial decision based
34 on substantial evidence.

35 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 72-5439 and K.S.A. 1990 Supp. 72-5438 are
36 hereby repealed.

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

1 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 72-5439 is hereby amended to read as follows: ~~process~~
2 72-5439. The hearing ~~provided for in~~ under K.S.A. 72-5438, and ~~commence~~
3 ~~amendments thereto, shall be held~~ within 45 calendar days after the
4 ~~designation or appointment of the third hearing committee member~~ — unless the committee votes
5 and shall afford procedural due process, including the following: for an extension
6 (a) The right of each party to have counsel of such party's own
7 choice present and to receive the advice of such counsel or other
8 person whom such party may select; and;
9 (b) the right of each party or such party's counsel to cross-examine
10 any person who provides information for the consideration of the
11 hearing committee, except those persons whose testimony is pre-
12 sented by affidavit; and;
13 (c) the right of each party to present such party's own witnesses
14 in person, or their testimony by affidavit or deposition, except that
15 testimony of a witness by affidavit may be presented only if such
16 witness lives more than ~~one hundred (100)~~ 100 miles from the
17 location of the unified school district office, area vocational-technical
18 school or community ~~junior~~ college, or is absent from the state, or
19 is unable to appear because of age, illness, infirmity or imprisonment.
20 When testimony is presented by affidavit the same shall be served
21 upon the clerk of the board of education or the board of control,
22 or the secretary of the board of trustees, or the agent of the board
23 and upon the teacher in person or by first class mail to the address
24 of the teacher which is on file with the board not less than ~~ten (10)~~
25 10 calendar days prior to presentation to the hearing committee;
26 and;
27 (d) the right of the teacher to testify in ~~his or her~~ the teacher's
28 own behalf and give reasons for ~~his or her~~ the teacher's conduct,
29 and the right of the board to present its testimony through such
30 persons as it may call to testify in its behalf and to give reasons for
31 its actions, rulings or policies; and;
32 (e) the right of the parties to have an orderly hearing; and
33 (f) the right of the teacher to a fair and impartial decision based
34 on substantial evidence.



SB 143

April 1, 1991

Testimony presented before the House Committee on Education
by Charles L. "Chuck" Stuart, Legislative Liaison
United School Administrators of Kansas

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to lend our support to SB 143 which could hasten the decision of the hearing committee convened to consider non-renewal or termination of a teacher's contract.

Tightening the time frame to name two committee members, and they in turn to name the third member, is a good proposal. Holding the committee hearing within 45 days is also good for both parties.

Although no mention is made of a time frame for the committee decision, we believe it is in the best interest of both parties to make this decision as quickly as possible. If an early decision is made, both the teacher and board can make plans before a new school year begins.

For the board and administration, a quick decision condensing the time frame in which a teacher is in a questionable position, is beneficial for the educational process. It is not realistic to assume that people don't "choose sides" in such a process. There are usually fellow teachers who support the teacher being non-renewed or terminated, while others feel a change is in the best interest of children. Shortening the time for potential teacher conflict can only benefit the total educational process.

We urge your favorable consideration of SB 143.

sb143/bsm

HOUSE EDUCATION
Attachment 7
April 1, 1991



SB 191

April 1, 1991

Testimony presented before the House Committee on Education
by Gerald W. Henderson, Executive director
United School Administrators of Kansas

Mister Chairman and members of the committee. United School Administrators of Kansas supports the provisions of **SB 191**. As has been reported to this committee in the past, the quicker school people and others can begin to address the educational and social needs of children the better. Every study we can find points to the fact that early intervention pays huge dividends in human potential and in real savings to the taxpayers.

We encourage you to approve **SB 191**, but as with other proposals presented to you this session, we trust that the resources needed to provide for the needs of at-risk four year olds will come from a source other than the local property tax.

SB191/gwh

HOUSE EDUCATION
Attachment 8
April 1, 1991



**Testimony on S.B. 191
before the
House Committee on Education**

by

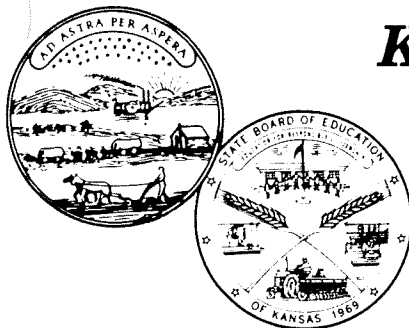
**Mark Tallman
Coordinator of Governmental Relations
Kansas Association of School Boards**

April 1, 1991

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to share the views of the member boards of education of the Kansas Association of School Boards on a topic of vital interest to public education. Our members have taken several policy positions with regard to the importance of early childhood education. We believe that S.B. 191 addresses these concerns in an appropriate manner.

Education research has consistently shown the cost effectiveness of early intervention in the education of our children. While previous legislation has focused on children with diagnosed learning disabilities, we believe it is desirable to expand our horizons in our preschool programs. We also believe it is appropriate to do so within the framework of our existing equalization formula. We are hopeful that the weighted pupil approach to funding found in S.B. 191 will be expanded in the future. We support studies presently underway by the State Department of Education, as recommended by the Interim School Finance Committee.

Our only reservation with this plan is, of course, whether the legislature will be willing to share in the commitment to this program by providing the resources to insure that existing funds will not simply be shifted to this new program. With that expressed concern, we would give our support to S.B. 191 and I would be happy to attempt to answer any questions.



Kansas State Board of Education

Kansas State Education Building (913) 296-3203
120 East 10th Street Topeka, Kansas 66612-1103

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mildred McMillon District 1 | Connie Hubbell District 4 | Bill Musick District 6 | Evelyn Whitcomb District 8 |
| Kathleen White District 2 | I. B. "Sonny" Rundell District 5 | Wanda Morrison District 7 | Timothy R. Emert District 9 |
| Paul D. Adams District 3 | | | Gwen Nelson District 10 |

April 1, 1991

TO: House Education Committee
FROM: State Board of Education
SUBJECT: 1991 Senate Bill 191

My name is Connie Hubbell, Legislative Chairman of the State Board of Education. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Committee on behalf of the State Board.

Senate Bill 191 permits unified school districts to count four-year-old preschool students who are "at risk" in its enrollment at a rate of .25. Research shows that the sooner we help "at risk" pupils the better chance those students have for educational success. Many students are now entering Kindergarten unprepared and behind other students as they begin their school career.

It is the State Board's opinion that any assistance we can give to preschool "at risk" children will not only have a positive effect on the student but also on social welfare and correctional programs.

The most widely recognized longitudinal study is the Perry Preschool Project, which included the most complete cost-benefit analysis of early childhood education yet undertaken. The cost-benefit analysis covering fifteen years of follow-up data, indicates that prekindergarten programs can be a good investment for taxpayers. The major benefits were savings per participant of about \$5,000 for special education programs, \$3,000 for crime, and \$16,000 for welfare assistance. Participants were expected to pay \$5,000 more in taxes because of increased lifetime earnings. The total benefits to taxpayers amount to about \$28,000 per participant, which is nearly six times the initial cost of a one-year program.

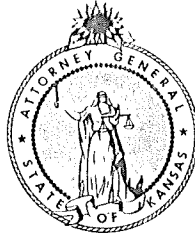
The results of the fifteen year follow-up study indicated that the preschool program increased the percentage of persons who, at age 19 were: literate, from 38% to 61%; enrolled in postsecondary education, from 21% to 38%; employed, from 32% to 50%. The program reduced the percentage of persons, who at age 19: had been arrested for delinquency, from 51% to 31%; had been treated for mental retardation, from 35% to 15%; were school dropouts, from 51% to 33%; had been pregnant teens, from 67% to 48%; and were on welfare, from 32% to 18%. This, however, is only one study and may not necessarily mean it could be duplicated in every school district.

(over)

HOUSE EDUCATION
Attachment 10
April 1, 1991

The evidence is that prekindergarten programs do help improve children's intellectual and social performance as they begin school, probably help children achieve greater school success, and can help young people achieve greater socioeconomic success and social responsibility.

We encourage the House Education Committee to support Senate Bill 191 and report it favorably for passage.



STATE OF KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

2ND FLOOR, KANSAS JUDICIAL CENTER, TOPEKA 66612-1597

ROBERT T. STEPHAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 1, 1991

MAIN PHONE: (913) 296-2215
CONSUMER PROTECTION: 296-3751
TELECOPIER: 296-6296

Representative Rick Bowden, Chairperson
House Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 281-W
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Support for Senate Bill 191

Dear Representative Bowden:

On behalf of my Victims' Rights Task Force, I encourage your support of Senate Bill 191 which allows additional funding for a school district that provides a preschool program for at risk pupils who have attained the age of four years.

Every child deserves the best possible education we can provide. We know that 25% of our children are from homes with income below the poverty level and one in six has no access to health insurance. Children come to school poorly prepared for classroom learning. Some are not ready developmentally for formal education. Some of their parents may be indifferent to their education needs. They may be children of children who are ill-equipped.

These children need our attention. Kansas must make the investment in helping these preschool children get off to a good start in their schooling. This investment most likely will save us money in the long run.

I encourage you to support this program by passing Senate Bill 191. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Robert T. Stephan
Attorney General

RTS:nl

HOUSE EDUCATION
Attachment 11
April 1, 1991