

Approved 4-8-91
Date

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Federal and State Affairs

The meeting was called to order by Sen. Edward F. Reilly, Jr. at
Chairperson

11:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on April 3, 1991 in room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~except~~:

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Legislative Research Department
Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department
Deanna Willard, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rep. Kathleen Sebelius
Rep. Joan Wagnon
Jeanne Duel, YWCA
Dr. Azzie Young, Department of Health and Environment
Marjorie Turner, SRS
Lynda Crawl, Women's Agenda Coalition
Shirley Norris, KAEYC

A request was made for a bill introduction for Senator Doyen relating to cemetery districts, providing for a cemetery to withdraw from a district by petitioning the board of county commissioners.

A motion was made by Senator Daniels and seconded by Senator Morris to introduce the bill. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Senator Anderson and seconded by Senator Morris to introduce a bill concerning state contracts; minority and female business enterprise, Draft 1 RS 1293. The motion carried.

Hearing on: HB 2320 - Providing for establishment of a demonstration family resource center program.

Testimony in support of the bill from Rep. Sebelius was read by assistant Annie Kuether. Also distributed was an article by David Broder, "Execs put kids atop 'unfinished agenda.'" (Attachment 1)

Rep. Sebelius appeared to answer questions. She said this represents "one-stop shopping," would pull services under one roof so families would know where to go. She said they have every reason to believe that the new portions of the program could be funded by federal block grant money. They would apply for a grant through SRS to fund the program. A Connecticut model center cost \$150,000; our cost would depend on the area into which it went.

Rep. Wagnon told of a family resource center located in a school across the street from where she lived in Boston; she often used its services. Families have to go to various places for services; it would make sense to use public buildings if they are available. The federal money will be a great advantage; schools who want to put together a center can do so without state funding. The Secretary of SRS would establish guidelines as to criteria for defining rural and urban. The biggest part of the fiscal note is child care, most of which would be borne by parents.

Testimony was presented by Jeanne Duel, YWCA Youth Services Director, saying it is exciting to see us headed toward a multiple service complex, increasing services to children, and meeting family needs. (Attachment 2)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Federal and State Affairs,
room 254-E, Statehouse, at 11:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on April 3, 1991

Dr. Azzie Young, Director, Bureau of Family Health, Department of Health and Environment, gave testimony saying, "We are supportive of the concept of these demonstration projects, however, we note that no funding is included in the Governor's Recommended Budget." (Attachment 3)

Testimony was presented by Marjorie Turner on behalf of Robert Barnum, Interim Director, Workforce Development Department, SRS. She said SRS would coordinate with all appropriate existing State and community resources and use all existing available funding to implement the centralization of family services. (Attachment 4) She said some of the funding could perhaps come from the State-reserved 25% of the new child care development block grant money. It is distributed through a grant process; there would be no excess because of the many child care needs in Kansas.

Lynda Cowl, Women's Agenda Coalition, spoke in support of the bill, saying its greatest impact would be on single mothers and that often it is only a matter of making them aware of available resources in order for them to increase their ability to function independently. (Attachment 5)

Shirley Norris, Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children, recommended passage of the bill with the understanding that existing community agencies will be utilized to provide the identified services. (Attachment 6)

Written testimony was distributed in support of the bill from:
Dr. Robert H. Poresky, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, KSU (Attachment 7)
Dr. Phyllis Chase, General Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Topeka Public Schools (Attachment 8)
Kharon Hunter, Child Care Providers Coalition of Kansas, (Attachment 9)
Sydney Karr, Kansas Action for Children (Attachment 10)
E. W. Rakestraw, Executive Director, Family Service & Guidance Center
(Attachment 11)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS
REPRESENTATIVE, FIFTY-SIXTH DISTRICT
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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

CHAIR: FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS
MAJORITY PARTY CAUCUS
MEMBER: ARTS & CULTURAL RESOURCES
JUDICIARY
SENTENCING COMMISSION

HOUSE BILL 2320- Representatives Sebelius and Wagon

A Family Resource Center is a comprehensive, community-based system of family support and child care and development services. This system of services encourages the best possible start for all children and families living in the community. HB 2320 is modeled after similar programs, in place, in Connecticut, New Jersey and Florida.

In this changing world there is no greater need to be addressed than quality care of our children and families. Family Resource Centers focus on preventing childhood and adolescent problems by strengthening family management and establishing continual support services.

Our goals with this bill are to provide the following:

1. Quality full day-care, before and after school and on a full-day basis during holidays and school vacation.
2. Support services to parents of newborns, referrals to other organizations and education in parenting skills, if needed.
3. Support and educational services to parents and their children who are interested in obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent and educational classes for families to promote the mutual pursuit of education and enhance parent-child interaction.
4. Training, technical assistance and support for community family day-care providers, provide information and referrals for other child care needs.
5. A families-in-training program to provide community support services to expectant parents and first-time parents of children under the age of three:
 - a) reference center for parents who need special assistance or services.
 - b) organize group meetings for neighborhood/

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HOUSE OF
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community parents of young children.
c) Advice to parents on their children's
language, cognitive, social and motor
development.

6. A sliding scale of payment for day care services
and a teen pregnancy prevention program for ado-
lescents, emphasizing responsible decision-making
and communication skills.

Each Family Resource Center will be run by an administrator with at least 2 years' experience in administration of child care or early childhood education and a master's degree in childhood development, early childhood education, counseling, family life or a related field; or at least 5 years' experience in administration of childhood or early childhood development, early childhood education, counseling, family life or a related field.

Family Resource Centers need to be located in public schools, one urban and one rural. Locating FRCs in schools assures that they are close to transportation systems and the buildings are accessible to people with disabilities. This is not to put more pressure and responsibilities on the school staff and administration. It is simply a well-recognized location to provide services.

A recently enacted federal child care legislation reserved 25% of block fund grants for activities to improve quality and to expand the availability of before and after school care and early childhood development services. This bill may be eligible for such funding.

Execs put kids atop 'unfinished agenda'

WASHINGTON—With near-perfect timing, the Committee for Economic Development, a policy and advocacy group made up of 250 leading business executives, chose the morning after President Bush's speech ending the Persian Gulf war to remind Americans of "the unfinished agenda." In language that would be suspect if it came from a liberal band of dogooders, but actually carried the imprimatur of bosses of Aetna, Arco, Ciba-Geigy, Texas Instruments and the like, the report said:

"Unless we act swiftly and decisively to improve the way we invest in our most important resource—our nation's children—we are jeopardizing America's survival as a free and prosperous society and condemning much of a new generation to lives of poverty and despair."

Bold words, but not as surprising from this group of executives as they first seem. Twice before, in 1985 and in 1987, the CED's research and policy committee has addressed the topics of school reform and early childhood programs. Those reports spurred local and state efforts to see that children start off life with adequate health care and nutrition and have a chance to develop their skills, from age 3 to graduation.

The reason this new report is called "The Unfinished Agenda—a New Vision for Child Development and Education" is that the business executives, like the governors and others grappling with this challenge, have come to understand the complexity of the task. They now realize that piecemeal efforts to remove one or another roadblock from a child's path to adult citizenship and economic self-reliance will not succeed. "Many people are trying to do the right thing," said James J. Renier, chairman of Honeywell Inc. and head of the task force that wrote the report. "But the system is not designed" to permit the kind of "comprehensive and coordinated human-investment strategy for child development and education" that he and his colleagues think is needed.

In Minneapolis, where he has turned over part of company headquarters to house a school for teenage mothers, Renier found himself battling bureaucracies and rigid federal and state regulations.

Even more than additional money, he and his colleagues concluded, the system must be redesigned to do two things. **First, it has to reach out into the community to enable parents, especially those with meager educations of their own, to avail themselves of the services their children need. And it must deliver continuing social services at school to help youngsters become active, eager students while allowing teachers to concentrate on their real job of education. The social-service agencies already exist in most communities but too often are not readily available at school sites.**

David Broder

Paying for such an effort is financially possible, they say. The annual additional federal spending that would be required to provide prenatal care, diet supplements to pregnant women and infants, immunizations, infant and toddler care and pre-school Head Start programs to all the nation's poor children is about \$10 billion. That's about what two weeks of Operation Desert Storm cost us.

The real question the report raises is whether a nation that coordinated brilliantly an international military rescue mission for Kuwait can coordinate a similar mission to rescue its own children.

Rescue them from what? From a situation where a rising percentage of them (one of four under age 6 in 1989) live in poverty, where one in four drop out of school before the 12th grade, and where far too many graduates lack the language, math and critical thinking skills needed for productive work in the new economy.

With America's decentralized system of social services

The real question is whether a nation that coordinated an international military rescue mission for Kuwait can coordinate a similar mission to rescue its own children.

and proud tradition of locally controlled schools, no domestic Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf can issue the orders or even draft the battle plan for this rescue mission. But a president could—if he wished—designate this as a challenge confronting the whole nation.

The good news, say these business executives, is that over the past decade, enough experiments have been conducted in enough places so that "we know what works in education and child development." The CED report is filled with brief descriptions of local and state models that have achieved significant results. Many of the smaller-scale experiments have been foundation-financed. The common feature of those that are large enough to require tax support is that they have been developed through a consensus process, involving political leaders, business and professional officials and the broad mass of voters.

A similar effort, led by the president, could save a generation—and secure the nation's future.

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April 3, 1991
To the Members of Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
I am speaking as a proponent of the amended House Bill No. 2320.

225 West 12th
Topeka, KS 66612
913-233-1750

YWCA's across the country have been providing services to family members through child care programs, teen pregnancy prevention programs, family counseling, working with dysfunctional families and their needs, and training people for new careers. Through the last 15 years, the Topeka YWCA has seen increased numbers of families, particularly single parents, the working poor who are above SRS guidelines, requesting more reduced fees for child care services and needing more family services such as support groups, counseling, parenting skills, and child evaluations or screenings and requesting the need for "one stop shopping" for services. This was also reiterated in the Making the Grade hearings where parents were requesting centralized information and intake centers for needed community services.

The State of America's Children 1991, compiled by the Children's Defense Fund, states that:

Every 35 seconds a baby is born into poverty.
Every 14 minutes an infant dies in the first year of life.
Every 14 hours a child younger than five is murdered.
Every night 100,000 children go to sleep without homes.
Every week in 1990, 317 children got measles, which could have been prevented by adequate immunizations.
Every month at least 56,000 children are abused.

In the 1990s this nation must struggle for its conscience and its future ... America must salvage its future by saving and supporting and investing in our children and their families.

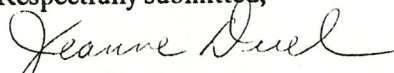
The family center concept in school neighborhood areas is one avenue to enforce educational reform. School neighborhoods are the central focus for many families, particularly those families who may not have means of transportation. Providing more services in one location meets specific needs of many dysfunctional families, and assures more children of required care. Fragmented services throughout a city often results in families giving up before the needs are met or being sent to many different places to achieve their goal.

House Bill 2320 provides an innovative method to avoid fragmented services and provides families with a familiar nucleus, their neighborhood school, as the key information center. Although some schools have limited space, there are many areas where there are portions if not entire school buildings that could house such a program. Communities committed to this type of program will allocate or research needed space for the programs success.

Intervening at an early age is critical to helping each individual child develop emotionally, socially, physically, and intellectually. Families need the support systems starting with infants. The family resource center concept provides training in parenting skills, support services for all family members, child care, teen pregnancy prevention and training for personnel in other community services.

The amendments written by the House Committee have strengthen this bill and we support the changes in the qualifications for the program administrator, including the local board of health as a cooperating agency, and transferring the monitoring responsibilities from the secretary of human resources to the secretary of social and rehabilitation services. It is exciting to see us headed toward a multiple service complex, increasing services to children, and meeting family needs.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeanne Duel
YWCA Youth Services Director

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Att. 2



State of Kansas

Joan Finney, Governor

Department of Health and Environment Division of Health

Stanley C. Grant, Ph.D.,
Acting Secretary

Landon State Office Bldg., Topeka, KS 66612-1290

FAX (913) 296-6231

Testimony Presented to
The Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
By
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
House Bill 2320

The child care challenge in this country is growing and public health continues to play a critical role in determining its future. With respect to services for children of low-income families, the situation is particularly acute.

KDHE, the state's public health agency, strongly supports quality day care systems for Kansas children and families. The agency supports policies and programs that increase the availability of affordable, quality day care for children of low-income families.

A growing body of research demonstrates the effectiveness of interventions with children from low-income families through day care and early childhood education. Interventions have been shown to have the following positive results for families: improved school performance, reduction in school drop out and teen pregnancy rates, decreased delinquency and arrest rates, decreased welfare dependence, and increased likelihood of employment in young adulthood. Subsidized quality child care may enable families to break the cycle of poverty.

The Head Start Program, which contains a strong health component, is an excellent model for comprehensive interventions. Among interventions offered through the program are arrangements for, or provision of, a broad array of preventive, diagnostic, treatment, and rehabilitative services for enrolled children. Comprehensive intervention programs for children of low-income families are prime vehicles for improving the health care of children.

Kansas local public health agencies provide a variety of child health and safety services to children of low-income families. Many of these services are provided through the day care system. These services are available in communities throughout the state and include the following: training for center staff; environmental sanitation and safety inspections; arrangements for fire safety inspections; disease prevention and control; training and interventions for disease outbreaks; immunizations; nutrition; parenting education; teen pregnancy prevention programs; and general child and family health promotion.

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Public health agencies at the state and local levels in Kansas support coordination/collaboration with other agencies in order to improve service delivery and to avoid unnecessary duplication of services.

Recommendation

KDHE acknowledges and appreciates the amendments made to the House Bill to include local public health agencies in a collaborative and coordinative role in delivering comprehensive services through demonstration family resource center projects. We are supportive of the concept of these demonstration projects, however, we note that no funding is included in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

Presented by:

Azzie Young, PhD
Director, Bureau of Family Health
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
April 3, 1991

BUREAU OF FAMILY HEALTH WORKSHEET
 April 3, 1991

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
 AVAILABLE IN
 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

HB 2320 SERVICES
 Infant Care

Parenting Skills

Trng and TA to Day Care Providers

Expectant Parent Classes

Child Developmental Assessment

Home Visits

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Comments

Maternal and Infant (69 Counties)	X	X		X		X	X	
Healthy Start (62 Counties)		X				X		
Healthy Families (8 Counties)		X				X		
Maternal and Child Health (32 Counties)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Services available in most counties
Adolescent Health (7 Counties)		X					X	
Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) (Statewide)	X	X		X	X			Relating to nutritional status
Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs (Statewide)					X	X		
Trng = Training TA = Technical Assistance								

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STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Testimony concerning H.B. 2320

Relating to demonstration family resource center programs

Purpose and Brief Analysis

The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), appears as a proponent for H.B. 2320.

This bill supports the establishment of an SRS-administered interagency collaboration of the three agencies coordinating child care and related supportive services for clients and providers. SRS already provides the lead role in coordinating services with the Department of Health and Environment and the Department of Education. This bill supports this collaboration and would bring all components together into a centralized public school facility. Community services and consultation would seem to be more effectively developed, coordinated, and delivered from this central resource.

Fiscal Note

If this bill is passed, the SRS intent is to coordinate extensively with all existing agencies and services and use all existing funding.

If necessary, perhaps some of the funding could come from the State-reserved 25% of the new child care development block grant money, since the purpose of that money is to improve the quality of child care and to increase the availability of early childhood development and before- and after- school care services.

We estimate an annual cost of \$140,000 for a facility utilizing an existing public school building year round and serving 50 children.

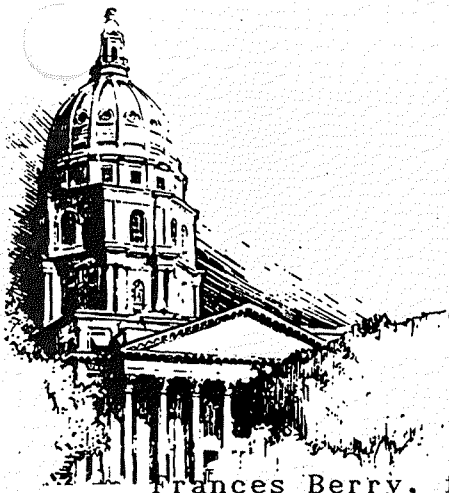
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We anticipate the parenting classes, child learning skills, families in-training program, and training and technical assistance to family child care providers would be provided by the facility staff in coordination with SRS. SRS already recruits families, provides family support, referral services for eligible clients, and educational services, such as GED and job skills training, and would extend these services to those affected by this bill.

The above estimate does not include such services as health-related needs or an expanded educational component for parents.

Services proffered in this bill would be implemented by utilizing existing State and community resources, including the private sector. SRS would coordinate with all appropriate existing State and community resources and use all existing available funding to implement the centralization of the above-mentioned services.

Social and Rehabilitation Services
Marjorie Turner, Workforce Development
296-2072
April 3, 1991



WOMEN'S AGENDA COALITION

Testimony, HB 2320, Senate Committee on
Federal & State Affairs, 4/3/91

The Women's Agenda Coalition supports this bill. The greatest impact can be assumed to be of benefit to women, many of whom are single parents. Mary Frances Berry, former assistant Secretary of HEW and a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, has said, "Men assume that if they don't take care of their kids, someone else will. Women assume that if they don't take care of their kids, **nobody** will." In my work with single mothers, it is clear that this is the prevailing attitude. It is also clear that these women invariably love their children and are striving desperately to do a good job of parenting. During interviews prior to admission to our occupational training program, we ask candidates to name the top three or four priorities in their lives. "Taking good care of my kids" is the most common first response for these women. The other common theme that soon becomes apparent is the isolation in which these women live. They lack the social and emotional supports that most other women have, and they are unable to manage all the diverse demands of their lives to the benefit of themselves and their children.

For some time now, we have recognized the wisdom of outcome-based assessment and a subsequent problem-solving process based on those outcomes. The wisdom of HB 2320 is that it focuses attention on the child via the child care setting as a way of attacking some of the problems of youth alienation and poor parenting. The family resource center program concept provides a broad range of services that speak to the problems of isolation of the parent who does not have the training or experience to encourage learning and healthy development. It also offers the opportunity to help the parent understand such concepts as developmental delays, specific handicapping conditions, and emotional and adjustment problems. Not only will the parent be better educated to care for her child, but she will have help in finding the special services and resources that she might need. The opportunity of the family resource center staff to have frequent contact with both the parent and child optimizes the chances of the staff's being able to provide appropriate support and referral to other needed services.

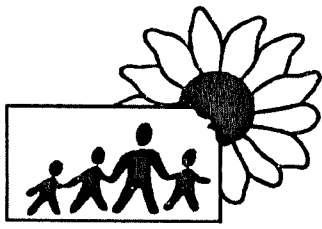
It seems to me that one of the most important provisions of this bill is the formation of groups of parents of children. These types of groups offer the participants the opportunity to exchange information with others involved in parenting under similar circumstances. This, combined with the support

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of the staff should greatly diminish the isolation of these individuals. In my experience in working with single mothers, I've learned that it is often only a matter of putting these individuals in touch with or making them aware of resources available to them within the community that is needed in order for them to increase their ability to function independently and effectively.



KAEYC

Kansas Association for the
Education of Young Children

Testimony on HB 2320
presented to the
Federal and State Affairs
Committee of the Senate

by
Shirley A. Norris
Representing the Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children
131 Greenwood
Topeka, Kansas 66606
Ph. 913-232-3206

My name is Shirley Norris. I represent the Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children, (KAEYC), an organization of over 1000 members who nurture, educate, and protect thousands of Kansas children who are enrolled in child care programs across the state.

Members of the Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children who had an opportunity to review this proposed legislation support the concept of a family resource center for the purpose of providing child care and supportive services to families in a school district. They did recommend that top priority be given to the provision of before-and after-school and summer care and supportive family services to school age children and their families. Although they have not had an opportunity to comment on the amendments to the initial legislation, it does not appear that the amendments change the basic family resource center concept.

There has been concern expressed that the passage of this bill would lead to duplication of services. However, it is our understanding that rather than developing new programs, community family service agencies would be invited to establish satellite services in a particular public school district so that families could access a variety of services at one location. Such programs would include child care, parent education, day care home provider training, remedial education, health services, teen pregnancy prevention programs, and resource and referral services. Although none of these programs represent a new idea - all of them can be found somewhere in the state - they may not all be offered in one community, and they most certainly are not offered at one location. This proposed legislation would make it possible to bring the services together in a place readily accessible to all families in a neighborhood.

It is suggested that the language be broadened to allow a school to use a nearby location if there is no extra space in the school.

KAEYC recommends the passage of this proposed legislation with the understanding that existing community agencies will be utilized to provide the identified services.

Thank you.

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March 7, 1991

Testimony
House Federal and State Affairs Committee
on
House Bill #2320
prepared by
Robert H. Poresky, Ph.D.

I appreciate this opportunity to present this testimony regarding the value of establishing family resource center programs which include child care and comprehensive supportive services within the context of the public schools as described in House Bill 2320. I am a parent, an associate professor, a board member of a child care center, and a child development researcher in Kansas. The worthwhile suggestions in this bill are similar to ones which Dr. Edward Zeigler of Yale University proposed after his term with the Office for Child Development in Health and Human Services at the Schools of the 21st Century.

There is no doubt about the increasing need for both the child care as a key element of economic development and the need for increasing the supply of qualified workers for the Kansas economy. Parents are often reluctant to enter the work force or job training when they are uncertain about the quality of their child care and even more reluctant when they can't find legal child care which they can afford. The provisions for both on-site quality child care and support for family day care providers address these natural concerns of children's parents.

Children who are to be competent, caring citizens in the future need quality care both in their homes and while in child care. The teenage pregnancy prevention will help delay premature parenting. By helping parents sharpen their parenting skills and providing parents with information about their children's motor, social, cognitive and language development we can help them become more productive and proud parents. The key to child development is often the quality of the children's home environment -- what the parents provide for their children and what they do with their children. Voluntary home visits can be very effective in helping the parents discover more effective child rearing techniques and by helping them find the resources they need.

Many of these provisions have been built into the successful family support programs which have been tried across the country, but few have been as comprehensive as these in meeting the broad child care needs of Kansas families as House Bill 2320.

Thank you for your time. If you have questions or if you would like further information please contact me at the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Human Ecology at Kansas State University.

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March 6, 1991

SUBJECT: Demonstration Family Resource Center
House Bill 2320

TESTIMONY: Phyllis A. Chase, Ed.D.
General Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Topeka Public Schools

I am here today to offer testimony in support of the Demonstration Family Resource Center proposal as presented in House Bill 2320. As an educator and a community volunteer who has been involved in numerous community activities centered around the promotion of young people, I see definite benefit in this proposal. This community currently provides a number of services in support of families and children from the educational arena as well as the community. However, sometimes the services are offered in a vacuum to the extent that they are disjointed. Collaborative efforts between the community and the educational system as well as other service providers is not always apparent. It is my opinion that a demonstration proposal such as presented in this bill would allow a model from which other districts and communities could initiate efforts in their own communities. I would predict that such a model would show overwhelming successes in terms of benefits to be derived from comprehensive child care, remedial education and literacy, family training and support services under one roof that ensures that the needs of families are met in a comprehensive way.

Our experience in the public school system verifies that there is a need for information and that parents are seeking information. Two recent cases in point would be our parenting program, which currently has a waiting list for parents as teacher members. The program, which is in its initial year, has been overwhelming in terms of requests for services from parents. Last Saturday, we had over 80 parents that gave of their entire Saturday to come and listen to information on the Comer Project; a project which we have initiated in Topeka Public Schools whose purpose is to increase parental input into student's education. Again, another overwhelmingly successful program, based on the idea that parents are interested in their children's education and want to be a part of that.

This proposed demonstration effort would allow us to have comprehensive care programs vs piecemeal efforts. However, in another area, I feel that this bill not only speaks to prevention, but is also a tremendous opportunity for promotion. The degree to which we promote the positive, including a sense of hope, the value of caring, social responsibility and social justice as well as a love of life and learning, to that degree. We also prevent the symptoms of despair which manifest themselves in dysfunctional families and students dropping out of school before graduation. In my opinion, working with families in a wholistic approach is certainly the most effective way of helping children get off to the best possible start in life. With these prior experiences as our base for decision making we, as a district, are in unequivocal support of House Bill 2320.

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3-6-91

Legislators:

RE: House Bill No. 2320

I have several concerns regarding this specific bill, such as the duplication of existing programs, availability of space in public schools and services being limited to only certain families.

However, I do want to speak to the need of parenting services that this bill does address.

I currently operate a Family Child Care Home in Topeka for ten children. I started business in 1967. During these past years working with families, one of the greatest needs I've seen is the lack of parenting skills in all income levels.

I do training workshops for other child care providers and when I have a room full of providers, I ask what their biggest problem is, when working in their child care business. The answer that always is among the top is parents. Parents do lack parenting skills and need to be educated on how to talk, how to play, and to understand the developmental stages of their children.

Tender Loving Care is important, but most parents need additional support services.

Kharon Hunter, provider
State & National Board Member for Family Child Care
1230 SW Cornwall
Topeka KS 66611
(913) 266-5330

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Because all children need someone who cares
**Kansas Action
 for Children, inc.**
 A non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

715 SW 10th
 P.O. Box 463
 Topeka, Kansas 66601
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 Johannah Bryant
 Executive Director

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**TESTIMONY TO HOUSE COMMITTEE
 ON FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS
 RE: HB 2320**

BY SYDNEY KARR, ADVOCACY COORDINATOR

Kansas Action for Children is very supportive of the establishment of pilot Family Resources Centers. Such centers, as developed in other states, appear to assist with a variety of problems which families face today, such as a need for low-cost child care, a need for parenting education and support, and much more. KAC supports this strategy because it:

- focuses on prevention and early intervention, and therefore saves money in the long run;
- provides a comprehensive approach which is both effective and efficient; and
- provides community-based services which are more likely to meet the needs of individual families.

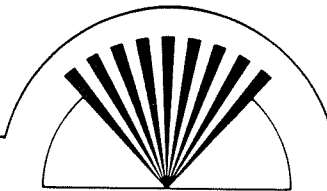
Suggestions to Sharpen the Focus of HB 2320

I. Have applicants look at resources which may already be available in a community, such as:

- Maternal & Infant program for prenatal support services
- Healthy Start/Home Visitor program
- Parents as Teachers or other parent education
- State-subsidized child care
- At-Risk Pupil Assistance program
- Interagency coordinating team
- Child Care Resource and Referral agency
- Teen parents program
- Teen health station

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 Att. 10

- II. Use the Family Resource Center to coordinate the services available and to fill gaps in services, not as a direct service provider.
- III. Require education/experience qualifications of the program administrator which reflect an administrative background rather than direct service.
- IV. Require match from the local grant recipient to assure a high level of commitment.
- V. Use the Children and Youth Advisory Committee as the vehicle for making the grant awards:
 - long history in determining the array of services needed for families in a community
 - proven track record in making granting decisions and working with SRS
 - membership includes all relevant state agencies, the Legislature, and members of the public, assuring a high level of inter-agency cooperation.
- VI. Require that specific outcomes or goals are defined, and that progress toward those goals is measured through an evaluation component.
- VII. Assure access to program services by all families, not just those at financial risk.



Family Service & Guidance Center

March 4, 1991

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Statehouse, Room 280-W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: H.B. 2320

Dear Representative Sebelius:

I am unable to appear before the Federal and State Affairs Committee on March 6, to testify. However, I would like to extend my support for H.B. 2320 and commentary via this written "testimony". Please, feel free to share my comments with the committee.

First, my agency is a licensed community mental health center which provides specialized services to children and families. We serve 2,300-2,600 cases per year. Our vantage point indicates nearly anything that provides additional services to parents of preschool age children should be encouraged. So many of the problems we see are directly associated with issues regarding parenting skills and the difficulty parents have in knowing what services are available and where they are located.

I would note that some of the services the bill proposes may well be already available in the community (I speak only of Topeka). What is absent is the coordination of the services and collaboration between service providers.

I believe that limiting the sites for the resource centers to only public schools could prove problematic for several reasons. I would hope that wording such as "or other appropriate settings" could be added in line 20, page 1.

To support my earlier point, I would also like to see wording added that, "Any of the proposed services other than child care which are already available in the community would not be duplicated. In such instances, written memorandums of understanding between the provider(s) and family resource center would be utilized."

Finally, I wonder if the master's degree referred to in line 21, page 2 is advisable. Would the resource centers be able to find people trained at that level? I would recommend a bachelor's or master's degree in child development or early childhood education or a master's degree in the behavioral sciences. This would allow a broader recruitment base.

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Outpatient Services:
2914 SW Plass Ct.
Topeka, KS 66611
(913) 267-0088

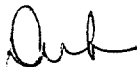
Community Based Services:
2055 SW Clay St.
Topeka, KS 66604
(913) 234-5663

Administration:
2913 SW Plass Ct.
Topeka, KS 66611
(913) 266-0092

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Again, I support the intent of H.B. 2320 but would offer the previous suggestions or amendments.

Sincerely,



E. W. (Dub) Rakestraw
Executive Director

EWR:eak

cc: Rep. Joan Wagnon
Rep. Joan Hamilton
Rep. Bill Roy, Jr.
Rep. Jim Cates