

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nick Jordan at 8:30 A.M. on February 9, 2006 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Helen Pedigo, Revisor of Statutes
Jackie Lunn, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mike Keller-Chief of Police-Wellington, KS
Daryl Garrison-Program Specialist USD 500
Mim Wilkey-Kansas University
Michael Klein-Salvation Army
Joyce Glasscock-Manhattan Boys and Girls Clubs
Kathy Damron-YMCA
Corey Peterson-AGC of Kansas
Patty Clark-Department of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairperson Jordan opened the hearing for **SB 382-Developing responsible youth act** by introducing Senator Laura Kelly to explain the bill. Senator Kelly stated that **SB 382** would create an after school grant program open to local units of government, non-profit agencies and organizations. Senator Kelley explained the bill in detail and presented written documentation from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. (Attachment 1) Senator Kelly mentioned the after school programs and funding in California. She also stated in Kansas there was a network for after school programs in place and we would not be starting from scratch. In closing, Senator Kelly referred to a quote from the Topeka Capitol Journal kids column. The question was “what is your favorite after school hang out and why”. The response was “my house, we have a lot of video games and we can do whatever we like”.

Chairperson Jordan introduced Mike Keller, Chief of Police, Wellington, Kansas to give his testimony as a proponent for **SB382**. Chief Keller offered written testimony. (Attachment 2) Chief Keller stated in his experience most crimes involving middle school youth happen after the last school bell rings and before parents get home from work which would be from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Keeping kids safe and supervised during these after school hours not only protects their welfare, but also the entire community. Chief Keller also stated prevention is always better than punishment. If we can keep Kansas kids out of trouble and better prepare them for school, and better prepare them for work in the process, then everyone benefits. These after school programs would help do that. In closing Chief Keller urged the Committee to recognize the need for after school programs, to be champions for Kansas youth, and to support this workforce development bill.

Next Chairperson Jordan introduced Daryl Garrison, Program Specialist with USD 500, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, to give his testimony as a proponent for **SB 382**. Mr. Garrison presented written testimony. (Attachment 3) Mr. Garrison gave an overview of a program he was involved in called “Kids Zone”, a before and after school program and also a summer program. This program employs youth workers, gaining experience in the positions of Teacher assistants, Program aids, Recreational aids, Office Assistants, Assistant Group Leader, Building Maintenance Assistant, Grounds Maintenance Assistant. The youth workers are recruited to participate in on-going training, mentoring and academic tutoring programs. They also must maintain an above C average overall in their school grades. In closing Mr. Garrison stated in the KidZone program, the youth get to experience the energy and enthusiasm of so many brand new workers. Many of us have had the same experience of guiding new young workers and helping them set and follow standards of working behavior and watch them succeed. In closing he stated this program has been a very successful program.

Chairperson Jordan introduced Mim Wilkey, Technical Assistance Coordinator for the Kansas Enrichment

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Network, to give her testimony as a proponent for **SB 382**. Ms. Wilkey offered written testimony. (Attachment 4) Ms. Wilkey stated for the past 8 years, she had provided training and technical assistance to the employees of after school programs all across the state. This work is sponsored by the Kansas Enrichment Network (sometimes called KEN), a collaborative of 60 agencies and organizations in Kansas that provide resources and training for all after school programs. She stated that middle school is the prime time to guide youth into successful educational, physical activity and vocational habits. Middle school youth need after school programs. In closing, she stated by recognizing the energy and enthusiasm in our youth and guiding them academically, vocationally and with life-long physical health, Kansas will produce the strongest workforce for our future.

Chairperson Jordan introduced Michael Klein Government Relations Director for the Salvation Army Kansas and Western Missouri Division, to give his testimony as a proponent for **SB 382**. Mr. Klein offered written testimony. (Attachment 5) Mr. Klein stated the Salvation Army has multiple programs for youth and welcomes this opportunity to provide special and focused programs for grades 6,7,8, & 9. **SB 382** will help connect knowledge, job enhancements, good health and fitness activities, support of mentoring along with values and responsible behavior. It will also encourage young people to develop roots in Kansas that will keep them in Kansas as productive and tax paying citizens. The Salvation Army through these enhancements will increase the young people's interest in school, promote personal and civic responsibility, increase their multi cultural awareness and foster intergenerational relationships within the wider community. In closing Mr. Klein asked the Committee for favorable consideration of this important bill for Kansas youth.

Chairperson Jordan introduced Joyce Glasscock, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Clubs of Manhattan to give her testimony as a proponent for **SB 382**. Ms. Glasscock offered written testimony. (Attachment 6) Ms. Glasscock stated that the Boys and Girls Clubs of Manhattan are constantly seeking available funds to support their youth development programs for children and youth in the Manhattan and Ogden areas. She stated in Manhattan they received a grant last year to support extended learning opportunities in before and after school programs at Northview Elementary. This program has been very successful and they have been approached recently by a counselor of their middle schools about developing school based, after school programs for their 7th and 8th graders. Funds that would evolve as a result of **SB 382** would perfectly address this need. The bill's 3 year award would provide longer-term stability to increase a program's likely success.

Chairperson Jordan introduced Kathy Damron representing the YMCA to give her testimony as a proponent for **SB 382**. Ms. Damron offered written testimony. (Attachment 7) Ms. Damron stated that After school programs in Kansas are an important component in helping young Kansans and their families develop important life skills. When funded and implemented properly, these programs are much more than just supervised settings for school aged youth, they are programs which develop lifelong skills for employment, personal health, academic advancement and character development. The YMCA has after school programs nationwide. Unfortunately, in our state and others, the funding is a barrier to reaching more children. This bill would be an investment in helping providers meet the common goals and objectives in building strong kids, strong families and strong communities. Ms. Damron suggested one thing to enhance the bill is to make the program applicable to programs offered to individuals who are in the 5th grade, in addition to the grades listed in Section 5. Some Kansas school districts have learning centers which group 5th graders with 6th graders and as such it would make this bill more beneficial without adding to the cost of the proposal. In closing, Ms. Damron encouraged the Committee to give thoughtful consideration and support **SB 382**.

Chairperson Jordan introduced Corey Peterson representing the Associated General Contractors of Kansas to give his testimony as a proponent for **SB 382**. Mr. Peterson presented written testimony. (Attachment 8) Mr. Peterson stated the AGC of Kansas recently formed a partnership with the Kansas Contractors Association and the National Association of Women in Construction called the Kansas Construction Careers Coalition to address industry workforce development needs. Members and staff of these three partners along with the instructor and students of the AGC high school program at Wichita East, have been providing after school instruction as part of the YMCA program at three Wichita middle schools. This 8 week program features hands on exercises that provide learning opportunities and insight to career options that would not have otherwise been available. Kids in these programs are having fun, but learning, maybe without even realizing it. In addition to these exercises, industry members also talked about the importance of developing employment skills and the career opportunities that are available in construction. Their eyes were opened to

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opportunities that they may have otherwise never learned about. In closing he stated these programs provide opportunities for all children, including those that may be considered “at risk”. These programs provide a safe environment for those who have no where else to go after school. After school programs provide this, with a bonus of unique opportunities for learning. He respectfully requested the Committee to recommend **SB 382** for passage.

Chairperson Jordan introduced Patty Clark with the Department of Commerce to give her testimony as a proponent for **SB 382**. Ms. Clark presented written testimony. (Attachment 9) Ms. Clark stated the Developing Responsible Youth Act will merge after school learning with basic job-skills training, physical fitness and academic enhancement. Investment in after school learning opportunities has shown improved academic performance, enhanced preparation to enter both post-secondary education and the marketplace and decreases criminal and risky behavior by our younger populations. In closing, she stated that the Commerce Department is excited to have the opportunity to enhance lifelong skills and habits for the children.

Following the testimonies of proponents for **SB 382** the Committee discussed the bill. Senator Reitz entered the discussion stating he feels strongly that programs are needed for children after school and is in favor of this bill. Senator Barone entered the discussion asking Ms. Clark what the definition of values education is. Senator Schodorf entered the discussion stating values education is a planned curriculum based on characteristics that promote good working skills, integrity, honesty and that kind of thing. Senator Brownlee entered the discussion asking Ms. Mim to tell about the Kansas Enrichment Network. Ms. Mims stated it was made up of organizations around the state that serve after school programs. It’s private and they invite partners. They share resources and have training available for after school programs. Chairperson Brownlee stated there are several after school programs around the state and she would like for the programs in the state to collaborate into one network. The Committee agreed with Senator Brownlee.

Chairperson Jordan called the Committee’s attention to written testimony of the following proponents; Gary Brunk, Kansas Action for Children; Michael Meadors, Johnson County Parks and Recreation District; Judy Moler, KAC; and Gary Daniels, SRS.

Chairperson Jordan stated he would like for the group of proponents to help the Committee figure out the best way to help all the programs around the state for after school. Senator Kelly entered the discussion thanking everyone for coming in support of this bill and stating she would also like to have a way to coordinate the funding for these programs around the state but would not want that to stand in the way of getting this bill passed out of the Committee.

Chairperson Jordan announced there would be a change in the agenda for tomorrow. The Committee would have a hearing on **SB 518—Payment of compensation; payment methods; electronic transfer, electronic deposit, payroll card.**

Chairperson Jordan adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with the next meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Friday, February 10, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. in room 123S.