

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Barnett at 1:37 P.M. on March 1, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Late Arrival:

Sen. Haley 1:43

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Norm Furse, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Diana Lee, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Morgan Dreyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Mark Geier and David Geier

Rev. Joyce Harris Scott

Donald Bondank, Lenexa, KS resident

Dan Morin, Dir of Government Affairs-KS Medical Society

Dr. JoAnn Harris-American Academy of Pediatrics

Dr. Howard Rodenberg-KDHE

Gianfranco Pezzino, MD

Others attending:

See attached list.

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairman Barnett asked Emalene Correll to give a reading and explanation of the language in SB 537.

**Hearing on SB 537– An act concerning public health, relating to vaccinations**

Chairman Barnett called upon the first proponent conferee, Dr. Mark Geier, MD, who stated statistics of children that are diagnosed with a developmental disorder, autistic disorder, significant dates regarding the use of Thimerosal in U.S. pediatric vaccines, and early downward trends in Neurodevelopmental disorders following removal of Thimerosal-containing Vaccines. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Next the Chair called upon proponent conferee, Rev. Joyce Harris Scott, stated her experience and observation of others in her community, and the help that is requested of the legislature to pass this bill. No written testimony was given

Chairman Barnett called upon the third proponent conferee, Donal Bondank, concerned Kansas resident, stated his personal story about his son's diagnosis and disability. He urges the Committee to pass the presented legislation before them. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 2) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chair then called upon David Geier to make additional comments on Dr. Mark Geiers presentation, stated information about birth defects and drugs in pregnancy and statistics on children with malformations that show uniform rates in relation to exposure to topical antimicrobials. A copy of his testimony is found within (Attachment 1) that is attached above and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Chairman Barnett called up his first opponent conferee Dan Morin, Director of Government Affairs, from the Kansas Medical Society, stated that vaccines have contributed to a significant reduction in many childhood diseases, believes that there is no evidence children are harmed by thimerosal, a mercury containing preservative that was used in certain childhood vaccinations. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 3) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee at 1:35 P.M. on March 2, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

The Chair then called upon the second opponent conferee, Dr. JoAnn Harris, with the American Academy of Pediatrics who stated vaccinations are considered one of the most important public health initiatives in the history of mankind, passage of the bill would limit the states ability to quickly administer influenza vaccines in cases of epidemics, and considers the bill would be dangerous to the welfare of the citizens of the state. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 4) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Chairman Barnett then called upon his first neutral conferee, Dr. Howard Rodenberg, Director of the KDHE Division of Health and State Health Officer, stated the importance of vaccinations to our health, concern over mercury compounds such as thimerosal, the bill's provisions that may impact ability to prepare for prospects of both seasonal and pandemic influenza, the bills' fiscal impact, Mercury content in vaccines statistics, and the absence of link between vaccines and Autism. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 5) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chair then called upon the last neutral conferee, Gianfranco Pezzino, MD, Kansas Health Institute, who stated concerns about an association between thimerosal and Autism, a study and review brief of Dr. Geier and son's study, and statistical chart information about the Percentage of Kansas Children Receiving the Hepatitis B Birthdose by Month. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 6) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chair then called the Committee's attention to the written testimony submitted by Dr. George Lucier, Boyd Haley, David Ayoub MD, Linda Winemaster, Kelly Kerns, Kathy Madison, and Debbie Graves in support of **SB 537**. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 7) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chair then called the Committee's attention to the written testimony submitted by Chip Wheelen, Joe Davidson, Alexander Mathews, Association of Immunization Program Managers, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist, Hipatitis B Foundation, Immunization Action Coalition, Infectious Diseases Society of America, Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society, Society of Teacher of Family Medicine, Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, PhRMA, and Kansas State Nurses Association, in opposition of **SB 537**. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 8) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Chairman Barnett closed the hearing on **SB 537**.

### **Adjournment**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2006.