

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Senator Schmidt at 1:30 p.m. on March 4, 2009, in Room 136-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except Senator Barnett who was excused and Senator Haley who was absent.

Committee staff present:

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Kelly Navinsky-Wenzl, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jan Lunn, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Joseph Kroll, Director, Bureau of Child Care and Health Facilities, Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Representative Bob Bethell  
Martin Kennedy, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department on Aging  
Courtney Huhn, second-year medical student, University of Kansas  
Bob Williams, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine  
Colonel Daryl J. Callahan, D.O., State Surgeon of the Kansas National Guard  
Melissa Garber, fourth-year medical student, University of Kansas

Others attending:

See attached list.

Doug Taylor briefed committee members on **HB 2221 - Disclosure of certain child care information** and **HB 2297 - Geriatric medicine; approved postgraduate training program for KU medical school and doctor of osteopathy loan.** **HB 2221** allows the Department of Health and Environment to provide open records information more timely and efficiently. By eliminating the confidentiality provision for the name and address of a child care facility, family day care home, or maternity center, the Department can begin using technology and the Internet to provide compliance information, inspection results, and related information to parents and public. **HB 2297** would amend current law to allow fellowship training in geriatric medicine to be included in the list of approved postgraduate residency training programs required for participation in the Medical Student Loan Program or Osteopathic Medical Service Scholarship Program. Both programs require one year of service for each year of assistance provided through the programs, in a rural or medically underserved area, as defined by the enacting statute.

Senator Schmidt opened the hearing on **HB 2221 - Disclosure of certain child care information** by recognizing Joseph Kroll, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, who spoke in support of this legislation. (Attachment 1) He explained the rationale for this legislation indicating over 20 states use web-based technology to provide information regarding provider, compliance history, etc., None of the states reviewed restrict the public identity of the day care home or center-based providers. The Department's software is capable of enhancements to provide meaningful and prompt information to consumers. He encouraged favorable passage.

Senator Schmidt called members' attention to written testimony submitted by Holly Turner, public policy chair for the Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children, who supports **HB 2221**. Senator Schmidt requested that members consider her testimony during any deliberations (Attachment 2).

Senator Schmidt closed the hearing on **HB 2221** and opened the hearing on **HB 2297**.

Representative Bob Bethell testified in support of **HB 2297** indicating that Kansas is an aging State that is underserved by the geriatric medicine specialty. The passage of this legislation would encourage students to seek this specialty education (Attachment 3).

Courtney Huhn, a second-year medical student at Kansas University, was introduced. Ms. Huhn's testimony included an overview of the current available options for pursuing a geriatric fellowship (Attachment 4). She indicated the current existing options make it financially impossible to pursue a

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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geriatric fellowship prior to repaying the Loan Program with required years of service. In addition, the state of Kansas has one geriatric fellowship with a capacity to graduate two geriatricians annually. However, due to the financial obstacles described, these spot are unfilled and the program is not graduating to capacity. She encouraged support of **HB 2297**.

Bob Williams, Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine, was present to address the committee in support of **HB 2297**. He indicated that as baby boomers age, there is (and will be) an increased need for primary care physicians (geriatricians) (Attachment 5). Mr. Williams offered an amendment to **HB 2297** that would include the Kansas National Guard in the definition of “state medical care facility or institution” for purposes of the medical student loan act. Mr. Williams testified that by including the National Guard additional means to fill current vacancies for health care professionals in the Guard would be provided.

Colonel Daryl J. Callahan, DO, State Surgeon of the Kansas National Guard, testified that including the Kansas National Guard in the definition could help fill vacated positions. At the current time, many medical officers are deployed further complicating shortages; recent pandemic training revealed weakness in essential medical capability; trained medical personnel are essential to care for returning soldiers; and additional trained medical personnel would greatly benefit Kansas and its tax base. Colonel Callahan’s testimony is attached, and therefore becomes part of this permanent record (Attachment 6).

Melissa Garber, a fourth-year medical student, at the University of Kansas, testified in support of **HB 2297** (Attachment 7). She reported that at the current time, there is one geriatrician for every 2,500 adults over age 75 (nationally), and it is estimated that by 2030 there will be one geriatrician for every 4,254 adults. In the 2006-07 academic year, there were 468 available geriatric slots (nationally). Of that number, 91 were filled with doctors graduating from American medical schools, 184 were foreign medical graduates, leaving 40% of the slots open. She encouraged favorable passage of the legislation.

Senator Schmidt called attention to written testimony submitted by Martin Kennedy, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department on Aging, in favorable support of **HB 2297**. (Attachment 8)

Senator Schmidt closed the hearing on **HB 2297**.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2009.