

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 11:30 a.m. on February 22, 2001, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Jean Schodorf - excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Debra Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amory Lovin, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Rae Anne Davis, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Michael Corrigan, Assistant Revisor, Revisor of Statutes Office
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Lana Oleen
Senator Kay O'Connor
Senator James Bamett
Cleta Renyer, Wee Life
Barbara M. Duke, on behalf of AAUW-Kansas and the other members of the Kansas Choice Alliance
Barbara Holzmark, Kansas Public Affairs Chair, National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Kansas City Section
Carla Mahany, Kansas Public Affairs Director, Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri (written testimony)
Charles L. (Chip) Wheelen, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine
Teresa Walters, Executive Director, Emporians for Drug Awareness
Mary Rhodes, Private Citizen
Gary Winget, Kansans for Life At Its Best
Chris Collins, Director of Government Affairs, Kansas Medical Society (written)

Others attending: See attached guest list

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on:

SB 279 – Birth certificate fees; increases, newborn infant protection act, public awareness advertisements

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill

Chairman Morris welcomed Senator Lana Oleen who spoke in support of **SB 279 (Attachment 1)**. She noted in her testimony that the purpose of **SB 279** is to fund awareness of the provisions in the Newborn Infant Protection Act. Senator Oleen offered an amendment to **SB 279 (Attachment 2)**.

Chairman Morris welcomed Senator Kay O'Connor who spoke in support of **SB 279 (Attachment 3)**. Senator O'Connor noted in her testimony that **SB 279** is a just and reasonable method of funding the necessary education and advertising to make sure no person in Kansas feels so helpless that they would ever consider throwing away a baby. Senator O'Connor mentioned that she is also in support of the amendment offered by Senator Oleen.

Chairman Morris welcomed Cleta Renyer, representing Wee Life, Inc., who spoke in support of **SB 279 (Attachment 4)**. Ms. Renyer requested that the Committee pass **SB 279** so the message contained in the Newborn Infant Protection Act will reach the citizens of Kansas.

Chairman Morris welcomed Barbara M. Duke, on behalf of AAUW-Kansas and the other members of the Kansas Choice Alliance, who spoke in support of **SB 279** (Attachment 5). Ms. Duke noted in her testimony that **SB 279** provides funds for the dissemination of educational materials and advertisements to increase public awareness of the services available to new mothers under the Newborn Infant Protection Act.

Written testimony was received in support of **SB 279** from Barbara Holzmark, Kansas Public Affairs Chair, National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Kansas City Section (Attachment 6).

Chairman Morris welcomed Carla Mahany, Kansas Public Affairs Director, Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri who expressed support of **SB 279 and SB 118** (Attachment 7).

The Chairman thanked the conferees for appearing before the Committee. There being no further conferees to appear before the Committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 279**.

Senator Jordan moved, with a second by Senator Jackson, to adopt the balloon amendment as offered by Senator Oleen, see Attachment 2. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Senator Adkins urged a slight delay in working the bill at this time as he is concerned that the subcommittee on the Department of Health and Environment is considering recommendations that include submitting a cost of upgrading the entire vital statistics department which might be funded by the issuance of bonds to be paid off by increases in the same fees. He would like the whole committee to consider the implications of that before tackling this bill. The Chairman noted that the bill would be held.

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on:

SB 118 – Pilot program for fetal alcohol syndrome

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

Written testimony was received in support of **SB 118** from Carla Mahany, Kansas Public Affairs Director, Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, see Attachment 7 which addresses both bills (**SB 279** and **SB 118**).

Chairman Morris welcomed Senator James Barnett who spoke in favor of **SB 118**. Senator Barnett mentioned that fetal alcohol syndrome is something that is totally preventable and is the leading known cause of mental retardation. He noted that there are approximately 40 to 80 fetal alcohol syndrome children born in the state of Kansas a year. Senator Barnett reviewed information titled “Fetal Alcohol Syndrome” (Attachment 8).

Chairman Morris welcomed Charles L. (Chip) Wheelen, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine, who spoke in support of **SB 118** (Attachment 9). Mr. Wheelen mentioned that fetal alcohol syndrome is a pervasive problem that needs to be addressed and the pilot programs envisioned in **SB 118** would likely demonstrate effective methods of preventing FAS. He also noted that the amendments to **SB 118** by the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee were adopted at their request. Mr. Wheelen mentioned that they asked for the amendments principally because they wanted to give all Kansas communities equal opportunity to compete for the state grants that may become available for these fetal alcohol syndrome pilot projects. He also listed some proposed amendments on page two of his testimony.

Chairman Morris welcomed Teresa Walters, Executive Director, Emporians for Drug Awareness, Inc., who spoke in support of **SB 118** (Attachment 10). Ms. Walters noted that, with institutional and medical costs for one child estimated to be \$1.4 million over their lifetime, undertaking the pilot program, especially with the recommendation of having communities provide matching funds, will be more economical in the long run than caring for the thousands of affected children born annually.

Chairman Morris welcomed Mary Rhodes, Private Citizen, who spoke in support of **SB 118** (Attachment 11). Ms. Rhodes spoke regarding her adopted son who has fetal alcohol syndrome.

Chairman Morris welcomed Chris Collins, Director of Government Affairs, Kansas Medical Society, who spoke in support of **SB 118** (Attachment 12). In his testimony, Mr. Collins noted that **SB 118** presents a reasoned and practical approach to reducing the prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Chairman Morris welcomed Garry Winget, Kansans for Life at its Best who spoke in support of **SB 118**. Mr. Winget mentioned that he was in support of everything that was said today. (No testimony was provided.)

The Chairman thanked the conferees for appearing before the Committee. There being no further conferees to appear before the Committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 118**.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2001.