

Approved: 2-9-2000
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Barbara Lawrence at 9:00 a.m. on January 25, 2000 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley - Excused

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Jackie Breymeyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Ranson
Representative Landwehr
Bob Voboril, Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS)
Delia Barnett, Holy Savior Catholic Academy
Mary Kay Culp, Kansas Catholic Conference
John Schlyer, Wichita
Ken Liles, South Knollwood Baptist Church
Kelly Yoakum, Topeka

Others attending: See Attached List

SB 295 Kansas educational opportunities certificate pilot program

Vice Chairperson Langworthy called the meeting to order and called on Senator Pat Ranson, who was present to speak a few words on the bill before testimony was given.

Senator Ranson stated that this is an idea whose time has come. This is happening in other states. Whether it will be this bill or another, we should go forward with some type of pilot program.

Representative Landwehr distributed her testimony (Attachment 1). She stated that school choice has been found to be constitutional and went into the details of the program.

Bob Voboril, KAIRS, submitted testimony (Attachment 3) and stated that this bill is a good place to start discussion. It is a pilot study that will cost nothing. He is hopeful it will get the attention it deserves.

Delia Barnett, Wichita, appeared in support of the bill. (Attachment 3) She stated that her school serves both the Catholic and non-Catholic community, with a largely African American population. The bill will allow children educational opportunities they may not have elsewhere.

Mary Kay Culp, Kansas Catholic Conference, appeared on the bill (Attachment 4), stating that it is an exceptionally well written bill, that her organization can fully support; it gives parents a genuine choice in education.

John Schlyer, parent, had testimony distributed, (Attachment 5) and stated that the bill will be applauded by all parents who do not now have a choice to attend the schools they desire for their children.

Ken Liles, representing families of South Knollwood Baptist Church and Knollwood Baptist School, thanked the committee for the opportunity to appear. (Attachment 6) He would like to see this bill as one that would free the middle class as well as the poor to choose a system that teaches moral and spiritual values.

Kelly Yoakum, Topeka, submitted testimony (Attachment 7), and asked the committee to give the bill serious consideration.

Dr. Gerald Kerr, stood to give a few additional comments in favor of the bill.

Due to time constraints, Vice Chairperson Langworthy stated the meeting would be continued tomorrow and adjourned the meeting.

