

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Stephen Morris at 10:30 a.m. on January 24, 2002 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Christine Downey - excused
Senator Paul Feleciano, Jr. - excused
Senator Nick Jordan - excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Nogle, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Corrigan, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Judy Bromich, Assistant to the Chairman
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

David Lake, Administrator, Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services (written)
Deanne Alexander, Superintendent, Spearville, USD 381 (written)
Robert Scheib, WaKeeney Trego County Schools, USD 208 (written)
Barbara Bohm, Americus, Kansas (written)
Karl Peterjohn, Executive Director, Kansas Taxpayers Network (written)
Brenda Eddy, Assistive Technology for Kansas Project (written)
Shannon Jones, Executive Director, Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas
Dale Huffman, Representative of Families Together, Inc.
Paul Klotz, Executive Director, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc.
Sarah Adams for Jane Adams, Ph.D., Executive Director, Keys for Networking, Inc.
Josie Torrez, self
Joyce Volmut, Executive Director, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved
Tessa Goupil, Topeka Independent Living Resource Center
Elizabeth Adams, Executive Director, NAMI Kansas
Val DeFever, Legislative Liaison, State Board of Education
Dr. Ed Berger, President, Hutchinson Community College
Bob Mikesic for Robert LeGresley, Executive Director, Independence, Inc.
Duane A. Goossen, Director, Division of the Budget

Others attending: See attached list

Bill Introduction

Senator Jackson moved, with a second by Senator Schodorf, to introduce a bill requested by the Department of Administration concerning an employee award and recognition program (1rs1479).
Motion carried on a voice vote.

A letter was distributed to the Committee from Dale M. Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education, in response to a request regarding Contingency Reserve Cash Balance (Attachment 1).

Chairman Morris continued the public hearing on:

SB 385 – Supplemental appropriations and adjustments for FY 2002 for state agencies

The Chairman mentioned that the following testimony was received:

David Lake, Administrator, Board of Emergency Medical Services, submitted written testimony in opposition to **SB 385** (Attachment 2).

Deanne Alexander, Superintendent, Spearville, USD 381, submitted written testimony in opposition to **SB**

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385 (Attachment 3).

Robert Scheib, WaKeeney Trego County Schools, USD 381, submitted written testimony in opposition to **SB 385** (Attachment 4).

Barbara Bohm, Americus, Kansas, submitted written testimony in opposition to **SB 385** (Attachment 5).

Karl Peterjohn, Executive Director, Kansas Taxpayers Network, submitted written testimony in favor of **SB 385** (Attachment 6).

Brenda Eddy, Assistive Technology for Kansans Project, submitted written testimony in opposition to **SB 385** (Attachment 7).

The following conferees appeared before the Committee:

Shannon Jones, Executive Director, Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas, spoke in opposition to **SB 385** (Attachment 8). Ms. Jones noted in her testimony that reform and streamlining of the long-term care system is needed but not to cut it to the bone by withholding services and supplies. There were no questions

Dale Huffman, Families Together, Inc., spoke in opposition to **SB 385** (Attachment 9). Mr. Huffman mentioned in his testimony that the services provided under the current level and the underserved need to be addressed and the bill affects people who are least able to provide for themselves.

Paul Klotz, Executive Director, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc., spoke in opposition to **SB 385** (Attachment 10). Mr. Klotz explained in his testimony that mental illness is a serious public health problem that cannot be overlooked by state government. He listed the services in his testimony that would be impacted by such a cut in funding.

Sarah Adams on behalf of Jane Adams, Ph.D., Executive Director, Keys for Networking, Inc., spoke in opposition to **SB 385** (Attachment 11). Dr. Adams mentioned in her testimony that the mental health system cannot withstand this heavy of a hit for several reasons. She listed the reasons as community mental health agencies can only serve families who come to them for service and getting mental health services in Kansas is voluntary.

Josie Torrez, Topeka, Kansas, spoke in opposition to **SB 385** as a mother of a child with autism who receives 15 hours a week of attendant care services from the HCBS DD waiver (Attachment 12).

Joyce Volmut, Executive Director, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved, spoke in opposition to **SB 385** (Attachment 13). Ms. Volmut testified that their association represents the most vulnerable of Kansas citizens where access to health care is concerned and also the most vulnerable of the safety net providers. She noted concern about the impact the bill will have on their ability to provide care.

Tessa Goupil, employed at the Topeka Independent Living Resource Center, spoke in opposition to **SB 385** (Attachment 14). Ms. Goupil mentioned in her testimony that they are opposed to **SB 385** because it will hurt low-income people with disabilities. She also mentioned that short-term cuts will force people into expensive nursing facilities where the mandatory Medicaid cost to the state is usually two to three times more expensive.

Elizabeth Adams, Executive Director, NAMI Kansas, spoke in opposition to **SB 385** (Attachment 15). Ms. Adams addressed the section on page 2, lines 1 - 12 of the bill, that if it stands, will be very hazardous to a system already struggling with greater demand than it has resources. She also noted that if that section stands as is, and more state hospital beds are closed, some of the most vulnerable citizens in Kansas and others will be harmed.

Val DeFever, Legislative Liaison, State Board of Education, Kansas State Department of Education, spoke in opposition to **SB 385** (Attachment 16). Ms. DeFever explained in her testimony that the State Board of Education

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is very concerned about reduction in expenditures and listed some of their major concerns and potential effects of the reduction in revenue. In summarizing, Ms. DeFever mentioned that they believe that not serving disadvantaged students will have an economic impact on the state in the job market and has the potential of increasing SRS and correctional costs. She noted that an increase in funding for Kansas school children is essential.

Dr. Ed Berger, President, Hutchinson Community College/Area Vocational School, spoke in opposition to **SB 385** (Attachment 17). Dr. Berger mentioned in his testimony that for FY 2002, the property taxes have been levied and collected and are well into the budget year. He noted that as the final decisions are made for the FY 2003 budgets, and the projected limitations are finalized, they encourage continued consideration of the impact that will be felt by each college and their local property taxpayers as they plan for another year of student needs.

Bob Mikesic, on behalf of Robert LeGresley, Executive Director, Independence, Inc., spoke in opposition to **SB 385** (Attachment 18). Mr. Mikesic explained in his testimony that the community based services, cash assistance, and other medical assistance that **SB 385** proposes to cut further than Governor Graves existing resources budget are services that play a vital role so that people with disabilities, senior citizens and vulnerable children can continue to live in the community and maintain their health.

Committee questions and discussion followed. Chairman Morris thanked the conferees for appearing before the Committee.

There being no further conferees to come before the Committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 385**.

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on:

SB 387 – State finance, state general fund ending balance requirement, maximum amount of expenditures and demand transfers

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

Duane A. Goossen, Director, Division of the Budget, spoke in opposition of **SB 387** (Attachment 19). Director Goossen explained in his testimony that the budget problems should be faced squarely with cuts, new revenue, or a combination of the two. He noted that taking the ending balance is a risky financial move and should not be done. Committee questions and discussion followed.

The Chairman thanked Director Goossen for appearing before the Committee. There being no further conferees to come before the meeting, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 387**.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2002.