

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Schwartz at 9:00 A.M. on February 26, 2008, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Kay Wolf - excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Legislative Research Department
 J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
 Cody Gorges, Legislative Research Department
 Amy Deckard, Legislative Research Department
 Leah Robinson, Legislative Research Department
 Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department
 Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
 Nobuko Folmsbee, Revisor of Statutes
 Nikki Feuerborn, Chief of Staff
 Shirley Jepson, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Lance Kinzer
 Jim Churchman, Olathe Unified School District No. 233 Board of Education
 Mark Tallman, Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB)
 Barry Downing, Wichita Business Coalition for Early Education
 Bill Nelson, Kansas City Business Coalition for Early Education
 Brian Caswell, Kansas Pharmacy Association
 Ken Audus, Dean, KU School of Pharmacy
 Amber Woehl, Pharmacist from Minneapolis, KS

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Fiscal Note on **HB 2859**
- Attachment 2 Resource information on **HB 2859** by Revisor of Statutes office.
- Attachment 3 Testimony on **HB 2859** by Representative Kinzer
- Attachment 4 Testimony on **HB 2859** by Jim Churchman
- Attachment 5 Testimony on **HB 2859** by Mark Tallman
- Attachment 6 Written testimony on **HB 2859** by Cheryl Semmel
- Attachment 7 Written testimony on **HB 2859** by Dr. Gary George
- Attachment 8 Testimony on Support for Early Learning Centers by Barry Downing
- Attachment 9 Testimony on Support for Early Learning Centers by Bill Nelson
- Attachment 10 Pharmacists Shortage testimony by Brian Caswell
- Attachment 11 Pharmacists Shortage testimony by Amber Woehl
- Attachment 12 Pharmacists Shortage testimony by Ken Audus

Introduction of Legislation

Representative Bethell moved to introduce legislation relating to assistance for certain expenses for physical disorders. The motion was seconded by Representative Ballard. Motion carried.

Hearing on **HB 2859**

Hearing: HB 2859 - School districts; funds; consolidation of.

The fiscal note on **HB 2859** was distributed to the Committee (Attachment 1).

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, explained that **HB 2859** amends the statute pertaining to school district funds (Attachment 2). The legislation would allow school districts to

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Appropriations Committee at 9:00 A.M. on February 26, 2008, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

transfer funds in 20 different funds into the general fund and give the school district more flexibility in the spending of these funds.

Representative Kinzer presented testimony in support of **HB 2859** ([Attachment 3](#)). Representative Kinzer stated that the legislation would reduce the number of restricted fund accounts, give more control to the local school board, greater flexibility in the expenditure of school district funds and more efficiency within the school districts.

Jim Churchman, member of the Board of Education, Olathe Unified School District No. 233, presented testimony in support of **HB 2859** ([Attachment 4](#)). Mr. Churchman stated that expanding local control and allowing school boards to have greater flexibility on the use of state funds would have a great impact on the operation of the school district. Mr. Churchman felt that the ability to transfer unused funds into the general fund would allow for greater efficiency within the school district. Mr. Churchman did not feel that the legislation would decrease the accountability of the school district.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Mr. Churchman stated that the textbook rental fund is currently restricted by statute. Mr. Churchman felt that giving school boards broader latitude in transferring unused funds from some accounts to the general fund would still allow for transparency in school funding.

Mark Tallman, Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB), presented testimony in support of **HB 2859** ([Attachment 5](#)). Mr. Tallman stated that KASB supports more flexibility for local school boards in school district budgeting. Mr. Tallman also noted that increasing the size of the school district general fund by consolidating other resources would also increase the size of the local option budgets (LOB) as those are calculated as a percentage of the general fund. Mr. Tallman stated that KASB has not reviewed the effect of the legislation on various size school district.

Written testimony in support of **HB 2859** was received from the following:

Cheryl Semmel, Executive Director, United School Administrators of Kansas ([Attachment 6](#))
Dr. Gary George, Olathe Unified School District No. 233 ([Attachment 7](#))

The Committee expressed concern that the funds might not be spent on the intended targets particularly relating to federal guidelines that address how state funds are spent.

There were no other proponents or opponents on **HB 2859** to appear before the Committee.

The hearing on HB 2859 was closed.

Support for Early Education by the Private Sector

Barry Downing, business leader from the Wichita community, presented testimony on the positive return on the investment of private business in providing quality early education programs to improve K-12 outcomes and help more children enter school ready to learn ([Attachment 8](#)). Mr. Downing spoke to the importance of providing charitable contributions to establish early learning centers in providing quality early education to improve brain development in early childhood. Mr. Downing noted that the Wichita center has been operating for 5 years, has more than 300 children enrolled and has graduated more than 700 children to kindergarten.

Bill Nelson, representing the Kansas City Business Coalition for Early Education, presented testimony on behalf of the employers, businesses and community leaders who have come together to advocate for expanded access to early learning in the State of Kansas ([Attachment 9](#)). Mr. Nelson noted that many students arrive at K-12 institutions ill-prepared to learn. The early education centers are a step in the right direction to improve this situation.

Mr. Downing and Mr. Nelson requested the support of the Legislature for early childhood grants and

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Appropriations Committee at 9:00 A.M. on February 26, 2008, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

the Kansas preschool programs.

Shortage of Pharmacists

Brian Caswell, President, Kansas University School of Pharmacy Advisory Council, presented testimony on the pharmacists shortage in Kansas ([Attachment 10](#)). Mr. Caswell noted the difficulty in securing and keeping pharmacists in rural Kansas.

Amber Woehl, a pharmacist from Minneapolis, Kansas, presented testimony on the pharmacists shortage in Kansas ([Attachment 11](#)).

Ken Audus, Dean, University of Kansas School of Pharmacy, presented testimony on the shortage of pharmacists in Kansas ([Attachment 12](#)). Mr. Audus stated that to address the shortage and double the number of pharmacists trained in the state, the University of Kansas is requesting \$1 million in additional funding for FY 2009 and bonding authority of \$50 million to finance expansions at the KU School of Pharmacy in Lawrence and the KU School of Medicine in Wichita. A later phase of the project calls for expansion of the pharmacy research program, estimated at \$120 million with the University responsible for securing funding for this phase.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Mr. Audus noted that the average tuition for in-state students is approximately \$12,000 per year with out-of-state tuition at approximately \$24,000. It is estimated that there are 90 Kansas residents in the class of 105 students at the University of Kansas Pharmacy School. Mr. Audus indicated that the State would be responsible for repayment of the bonds if authorized. The additional facilities in Lawrence would increase student population from 105 to 150 students. The Wichita facility would provide teaching for 40 pharmacy students. Mr. Audus indicated that pharmacy does not require a research component attached to the pharmacy school. At this time, it is estimated that 50 percent of graduated pharmacists remain within the State.

In response to a question from the Committee concerning where approved funding would be spent if it were less than requested, Mr. Audus stated that both of the Lawrence and Wichita facilities are needed to address the shortage and did not recommend providing funding for one over the other.

- The Committee requested an analysis of mail order prescriptions.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 9:00 a.m. on February 27, 2008.

Sharon Schwartz, Chair