

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Powell at 1:30 p.m. on March 30, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Burroughs, excused
Representative Edmonds
Representative Henderson
Representative Mason, excused
Representative Mayans, excused
Representative Mays, excused
Representative Morrison
Representative Peterson
Representative Ruff

Committee staff present: Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Russell Mills, Legislative Research
Mary Galligan, Legislative Research
Winnie Crapson, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Senator Oleen
Representative O'Connor
Joyce Allegrucci, Children and Family Policy, SRS
Cleta Renyer, Right to Life
Carla Northcott-Mahany, Planned Parenthood of Kansas
and Mid-Missouri

Others attending: See attached list.

Hearing was opened on
Sub SB 652, Newborn infant protection act.

Senator Oleen presented testimony in support of **Sub SB 652** (Attachment #1). She, Senator Biggs and Representative O'Connor were all concerned with procedural policies they thought should be incorporated in the bill. She described a similar bill in Texas called the "bonus bill" allowing a child to be brought unharmed to a place that could care for that newborn anonymously. A similar bill has been filed in Minnesota. After introducing **SB 652** she learned Representative O'Connor had introduced a bill like this. The intent of the bill was supported by the Hospital Association, Right to Life, and Planned Parenthood and other organizations. What was already the law in Kansas was incorporated into the present bill. It provides that a newborn 45 days or younger could be brought to a hospital or place where people are on duty longer than the 8-hour day. The child must be brought to a person who is actually on duty. Authorities are notified and the child brought to a foster care home. Kansas is one of several states that have equal rights of mothers and fathers and grandparents.

The written testimony of Senator Biggs (Attachment #2) was distributed by Senator Oleen.

Representative O'Connor presented testimony in support of **Sub SB 652** (Attachment #3). She introduced **HB 2927** with twenty sponsors. She wanted to make clear that Senator Oleen had not "stolen" her bill. Both bills have the same intent and she presented testimony at the hearing of **SB 652** in the Senate Committee. She presented her concerns about the language on page 2, line 5 "if such infant has not suffered bodily harm." Her concern is when a child is born in a private circumstance without medical assistance there might be bodily harm that was unintentional.

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Joyce Allegrucci, Assistant Secretary of SRS for Children and Family Policy presented information from SRS in support of the bill (Attachment #4). SRS strongly supports the intent and goal of **Sub SB 652** to decriminalize the abandonment of newborn infants and to expedite their placement in permanent adoptive homes. These are rare and extremely tragic situations and this bill would do a great deal to help avoid their continued reoccurrence. The information she provided outlined the hearing procedure to final adoption and explaining the rights of parents and grandparents.

Committee questions were addressed to Senator Oleen, Representative O'Connor and Joyce Allegrucci concerning parental rights and "change of heart", and possible abuse.

Parental rights and the procedure to final adoption are covered by present Kansas law. Revisor Kiernan explained that while under the bill there could be no charge of abandonment, there could be for abuse.

Representative Vining noted this could provide the possibility of more children being available for adoption.

Cleta Renyer presented testimony in support of the bill on behalf of Right to Life of Kansas (Attachment #5). They believe this would not only save the lives of newborn infants but would inadvertently save the lives of the desperate and frightened young parents by giving them an opportunity to place their babies in the hands of a non-biased trained professional.

Carla Northcott-Mahany presented testimony in support of the bill on behalf of Planned parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri (Attachment #6).

The meeting adjourned. No further meeting is scheduled.