

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Bethell at 3:30 P.M. on March 6, 2007 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kay Dick, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rep. Ballard
Dr. Howard Rodenberg, MD, MPH, Director of Health, KS Dept. of Health & Environment
Rep. Garcia
Rep. Watkins

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Bethell called the meeting to order at 3:30.

Hearing on HB 2423 - Task force on obesity prevention and management.

Amy Van House, Legislative Research Department, presented an overview of **HB 2423**, stating that this bill would create a task force on obesity, prevention and management within the Department of Health & Environment. The task force would have the duty to conduct meetings with students from grades 4-12 to discuss obesity related disease and conditions. Following these meeting the task force would meet with school personnel to discuss how to better to assist children of school age who may have early indicators of obesity. And then meet with parents and civic leaders to discuss promotion activities for the management and prevention of obesity. At the conclusion of all those meetings the task force establishes recommendations for a education program that would be incorporated in to the school curriculum and also for community projects that would promote obesity awareness and education. There is fiscal impact from the legislation.

The Committee discussed the fiscal impact.

Chair Bethell recognized Representative Barbara Ballard who appeared in support of **HB 2423**. The main focus of Representative Ballard's testimony was on grades K-12. She pointed out that "As a state, it is important to look at the big picture", which is to review the effect of obesity in children. "As a State we can save lives, preserve human dignity, and decrease the cost of health care". (Attachment 1)

Dr. Howard Rodenberg, MD, MPH, Director of Heath at the Department of Health and Environment gave testimony as a proponent to **HB 2423**. Dr. Rodenberg alluded to the fact that overweight and obesity is the second leading cause of preventable death in Kansas and the nation. He goes on to say that an even more striking trend is observed in children and adolescents. (Attachment 2) The Chair recognized Representative Delia Garcia , who spoke as a proponent on **HB 2423**. Representative Garcia supported Representative Ballard's testimony. Representative Garcia stated that if the state doesn't fund this bill now the cost of all the other problems that would occur would have a bigger impact, causing a ripple effect. (no written testimony)

Chairman Bethell recognized Representative Watkins, who appeared in support of **HB 2423**. He stated that "what we don't do a very good job of, is trying to keep you healthy, it's more of "sick care program" than it is a true "health care program". Rep. Watkins goes on to say that obesity one of those thing we can address early instead of later.(no written testimony).

The hearing on HB 2423 was closed.

Deliberation was opened on the Kansas Board of Nursing Budget.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00.