

Approved: May 12, 2008  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:30 A.M. on February 4, 2008 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Greta Goodwin - excused  
Senator Jean Schodorf - excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes  
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Kristen Clarke Kellems, Assistant Revisor of Statutes  
Nobuko Folmsbee, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Cody Gorges, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means  
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Robert Waller, Chief Administrator, Kansas Board of Emergency Services  
Reginald "Reggie" Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents  
Elizabeth King, Ph.D, President and CEO, Wichita State University  
David Monical, Executive Director, Governmental and University Relations, Washburn

University

Bill Osborn, Dean, Career and Technical Authority, Johnson County Community College  
Dr. Matt Reese, Ph.D, Director, Center for Child Health and Development, University of Kansas  
and Member, Legislative Task Force on Autism and the Governor's Commission on  
Autism  
Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Jim Leiker, President and CEO, Easter Seals, Capper Foundation and Member, Kansas Autism  
Task Force  
Sheril Bergman, St. Benedict, Kansas

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Robert Waller, Chief Administrator, Emergency Medical Services, who presented information regarding financing the Emergency Medical Services receives from fire insurance premiums (Attachment 1). Mr. Waller explained the history of the EMS funding, operating expenditures, including analysis of salaries and wages, contractual services, commodities and capital outlay. This is detailed in Mr. Waller's written testimony. He also addressed aid to local units of government and other assistance, grants, and benefits.

Chairman Umbarger opened the public hearing on:

**SB 403--Partnership for faculty of distinction program; state income earnings equivalent cap, removed**

Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department, briefed the Committee on the bill.

The Chairman welcomed the following conferees:

Reginald L. Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, who testified in support of **SB 403** (Attachment 2). Mr. Robinson explained that under this program, a private donor's gift to an institution's

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endowment association that meets certain statutory qualifications will be matched by the State in the amount of income earnings the donation would have generated if deposited with the State. It was noted that the Board's evaluation reveals that the program has been successful in attracting and retaining professors. Mr. Robinson mentioned that the reason for the bill was to move the \$5 million dollar threshold to \$10 million dollars. Copies of the Kansas Partnership for Faculty of Distinction Program Evaluation Report were distributed to the Committee ([Attachment 3](#)).

Elizabeth King, President and CEO, Wichita State University Foundation, spoke in support of **SB 403** ([Attachment 4](#)). Ms. King explained that the Faculty of Distinction program has been an extraordinarily positive program to leverage private dollars for the purpose of attracting and retaining faculty and they strongly support any and all efforts to expand the program.

David Monical, Executive Director of Governmental and University Relations, Washburn University, testified in support of **SB 403** ([Attachment 5](#)). Mr. Monical explained that raising the limit of the State's earnings equivalent from the current \$5 million to the requested \$10 million amendment will enable them to continue to use the leverage of the state matching endowment earnings in soliciting endowment gifts in keeping with the statutory dollar magnitude and program limitations.

Bill Osborn, Dean, Career & Technical Authority, Johnson County Technical College, testified as a proponent on **SB 403** ([Attachment 6](#)). Mr. Osborn told about how a couple in Overland Park pledged \$750,000 for the first endowed professorship in the history of Johnson County Community college and how that gift created and helped fund the Zamierowski Family Endowed Professorship for Nursing and Medical Simulation.

The Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 403**.

Chairman Umbarger opened the public hearing on:

### **SB 406--Colleges and universities; fees and tuition; service scholarship programs, applied health care professionals for children with autism**

Nobuko Folmsbee, Assistant Revisor of Statutes, briefed the Committee on the bill ([Attachment 7](#)).

The Chairman welcomed the following conferees:

Matthew Reese, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Child Health and Development at the University of Kansas Medical Center and member of the Kansas Legislative Task Force on Autism and the Governor's Commission on Autism spoke in support of **SB 406** ([Attachment 8](#)). Mr. Reese explained that early intervention can help children with autism make tremendous improvement. He noted that a common complaint from parents is that there are no service providers in their area and trained people are needed. Mr. Reese addressed the situation that many of the students that come to the state colleges and universities leave the state and go back home or seek employment in metropolitan areas. **SB 406** will help families living in a variety of areas to have equal access to services no matter where they live.

Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy, Kansas Association of School Boards, testified in support of **SB 406** ([Attachment 9](#)). Mr. Tallman mentioned that Kansas is experiencing a growing shortage of teachers and other staff in a number of disciplines and areas around the state, including special education teachers. Their members adopted a resolution which supports the expansion of programs to provide targeted incentives for services in those areas.

Jim Leiker, President and CEO, Easter Seals Capper Foundation and member of the Kansas Autism Task Force, spoke as a proponent on **SB 406** ([Attachment 10](#)). Mr. Leiker noted that there is a substantial shortage of autism direct service providers throughout Kansas. He noted that with the huge number of baby boomers retiring, there will be a major shortage of workers overall and particularly in specialized, direct service areas. Mr. Leiker emphasized the need in providing a scholarship to students pursuing masters degrees in an allied health field such as speech therapy or occupational therapy is essential to decreasing the critical shortage of professionals currently serving individuals with autism.

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Sheril Bergman, St., Benedict, Kansas, testified as a proponent on **SB 406** (Attachment 11). Ms. Bergman addressed the journey of her grandchild who was diagnosed with autism and the perplexing world of autism and the special education system. She noted that **SB 406** certainly appears to be a step in the right direction toward improving the system, but felt that it does not go deep enough into doing what is needed.

Written testimony was submitted by:

Chris Miller, Program Coordinator, SEK Birth to Three Program (Attachment 12)

Diane Lindeman, Director, Student Financial Assistance, Kansas Board of Regents (Attachment 13)

The Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 406**.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for February 5, 2008.