

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 P.M. on February 8, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Annie Kuether- excused
Representative Carl Krehbiel- excused
Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor
Haley DaVee, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Ed O'Malley
Scott Gates, Kansas Treasurer's Office
April Holman, Kansas Action for Children
Senator Nick Jordan
Jerry Magliano

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Sloan opened the hearing on:

HB 2722 - Postsecondary savings accounts; pilot program providing state matching of contributions by low-income participants.

Representative Ed O'Malley was welcomed to the committee to testify as a proponent to **HB 2722**. He noted that this bill is an effort to help more low income Kansans utilize the Learning Quest 529 plan. Representative O'Malley argued that helping provide resources to increase access to higher education is perhaps the best step to economic development that the legislature can take. (Attachment 1)

Chairman Sloan welcomed Scott Gates, Kansas Treasurer's Office, to testify as a proponent on **HB 2722**. He noted that higher income Kansans already receive help saving for college through tax breaks associated with 529 plans. **HB 2722** would be an opportunity to help Kansans who do not have many resources to save for college. (Attachment 2)

April Holman, Kansas Action for Children, was welcomed to the committee. Holman provided earning statistics based on educational levels to show that matching state funds in 529 plans for low income Kansans can make a big difference to Kansas students. (Attachment 3)

Chairman Sloan directed the committee's attention to written testimony in favor of **HB 2722** submitted by Margaret Clancy, Washington University (Attachment 4), Gary Daniels, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (Attachment 5), and Reginald Robinson, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents. (Attachment 6).

The floor was opened for questions and questions were asked by Representatives Phelps, Pottorf, Storm, Carlin, and Kelsey.

Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **HB 2722** and opened the hearing on:

SB 139 - Authorizing state board of regents to establish the Kansas academy of mathematics and science (KAMS).

Senator Nick Jordan was welcomed to the committee to testify in support of **SB 139**. He noted that this bill

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would form a Kansas Academy of Math and Science. The Kansas Board of Regents would determine which university would host the academy. He provided information about fourteen other academies that are set up in other states and the benefits they have had on students. He argued that this is an important step that the state of Kansas can make for the future of the state's children and the future of the state and national economies.

Chairman Sloan welcomed Jerry Magliano to the committee to testify as a proponent to **SB 139**. Magliano suggested that Kansas students must be encouraged to study math and science. He believes that establishing math and science academy will provide this incentive to students. (Attachment 7)

Chairman Sloan directed the committee's attention to written testimony submitted by the Kansas Board of Regents (Attachment 8) before opening the floor for questions. Representatives Huff, Horst, Otto, and Carlin asked questions.

Chairman Sloan adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. in Rm. 231-N.