

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 9:30 a.m. on January 25, 2001 in Room 234-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Dr. Bill Wolff, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
JoAnn Buntten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Lynn Jenkins  
Karen France, Kansas Association of Realtors  
Larry Magill, Kansas Association of Insurance Agents  
Kathleen Sebelius, Insurance Commissioner, Kansas Insurance Dept.  
Carla Mahany, Planned Parenthood of Kansas  
Charles T. Allred, M.D., President, Kansas Academy of Family Physicians  
Chris Collins, Kansas Medical Society  
Larrie Ann Lower, Kansas Association of Health Plans  
Susan Mahoney, Governor's Office  
Laura Howard, Assistant Secretary, Health Care Policy, SRS  
Josie Torrez, Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities  
William H. McEachen, M.D., March of Dimes

Others attending: See attached list.

**Introductions of bills**

Senator Lynn Jenkins requested introduction of a bill relating to expanding the state employees' health plan. Senator Barnett made a motion that the Committee introduce the proposed legislation, seconded by Senator Brungardt. The motion carried.

Karen France, Kansas Association of Realtors, requested introduction of a bill that would allow realtors to own title insurance companies. Senator Feleciano made a motion that the Committee introduce the proposed legislation, seconded by Senator Corbin. The motion carried.

Larry Magill, Kansas Association of Insurance Agents, requested introduction of a bill relating to fraudulent insurance. Senator Teichman made a motion that the Committee introduce the proposed legislation, seconded by Senator Brungardt. The motion carried.

**Hearing on SB 19 - Health insurance; clarifying OB/GYN as a primary care provider**

Kathleen Sebelius, Insurance Commissioner, Kansas Insurance Department, testified in support of **SB 19** which would require health insurance providers to permit women insured by their company to visit an in-network obstetrician or gynecologist for routine gynecological care at least once a year without requiring these women to visit a primary care provider first. Commissioner Sebelius requested an amendment to the bill that would strike the words, "at least" on line 15. The Commissioner also made reference to an amendment that would be proposed by another conferee which she considered to be a friendly amendment. (Attachment 1)

Commissioner Sebelius also expressed her support for **SB 29** which relates to the children's health insurance plan. (Attachment 2)

Carla Mahany, Planned Parenthood of Kansas, testified before the Committee in support of **SB 19** as outlined in

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her written testimony. ([Attachment 3](#))

Charles T. Allred, M.D., President, Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, requested an amendment to **SB 19** that would strike the words, “at least” on line 15 of the bill, and noted that without this amendment, the patient could visit the OB/GYN many times a year without visiting her primary care provider. ([Attachment 4](#))

Chris Collins, Kansas Medical Society, testified in support of **SB 19**, but also requested an amendment that would add language on page 16 of the bill: “or obtain a referral from” a primary care provider. ([Attachment 5](#))

Written testimony in support of the bill was received from: Barbara Holzmark, National Council of Jewish Women, KC, ([Attachment 6](#)); Barbara Duke, Kansas Choice Alliance, ([Attachment 7](#)); National Organization for Women, Lawrence Chapter, ([Attachment 8](#)); and the Kansas State Nurses Association, ([Attachment 9](#)).

Larrie Ann Lower, Kansas Association of Health Plans, appeared before the Committee in opposition to **SB 19** and stated that Kansas HMO’s currently allow a woman to visit an OB/GYN for routine care once a year without a referral, and the bill would mandate such action. ([Attachment 10](#))

### **Hearing on: SB 29 – HealthWave waiting period**

Susan Mahoney, Governor’s Office, expressed her support for **SB 29** which would eliminate the requirement for children to be without health insurance for six months before becoming eligible for the State Children’s Health Insurance Program called HealthWave. Laura Howard, Assistant Secretary, Health Care Policy, SRS, provided the Committee with an overview of the bill and the Governor’s recommendations relating to HealthWave. Passage of the bill would provide coverage to 420 children annually for this six month period during which they are currently ineligible for services. It would result in an additional annual cost of \$299,174 all funds (\$83,978 SGF), which is included in the Governor’s Budget recommendations for SRS. Ms. Howard pointed out that, although not included in **SB 29**, the Governor has recommended coverage for children under HealthWave to begin at the time of eligibility determination, and this can be done administratively by the Department. The Governor’s budget recommendation also includes \$641,844 all funds (\$180,186 SGF) to provide coverage beginning when the child has been found eligible for the program. ([Attachment 11](#))

Josie Torrez, Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, expressed her support for the bill and noted that the state would be doing the right thing for Kansas children by eliminating the six month waiting period to apply for HealthWave. ([Attachment 12](#))

William H. McEachen, M.D., representing the March of Dimes, presented testimony for Leigh Ann Henson in support of **SB 29** as well as expressing his support for children of state employees to join HealthWave who are currently ineligible. ([Attachment 13](#))

### **Action on SB 29**

Senator Feleciano made a motion to amend **SB 29** by changing the effective date to publication in the Kansas register, and that the Committee recommend **SB 29** as amended favorably for passage, seconded by Senator Barnett. The motion carried.

### **Action on SB 19**

Senator Feleciano made a motion to amend **SB 19** by striking the words, “at least” on line 15 of the bill, in setting after the word “visit” on line 16, “or receive a referral from”, and that the effective date be changed from statute book to publication in the Kansas register, seconded by Senator Barnett. The motion carried.

Senator Feleciano made a motion that the Committee recommend **SB 19** as amended favorably for passage, seconded by Senator Steineger. The motion carried.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 30, 2001.