

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Susan Wagle at 11:00 a.m. on April 9, 2002 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Sandy Praeger (EA)
Senator Nick Jordan (EA)
Ms. Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Committee staff present: Mr. Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Carlos Mayans
Representative Robert Bethel
Ms. Sally Finney, Executive Director,
Kansas Public Health
Mr. Clyde Graeber, Secretary, KDHE
Dr. Robert St.Peter, President, Kansas Health Institute
Ms. Carolyn Middendorf, M.S.N., R.N, on behalf of
KS State Nurses Association
Mr. Jerry Slaughter, Executive Director, KS Medical Society
Ms. Rebecca Rice, Legislative Counsel,
KS Chiropractic Association

Others attending: See attached guest list.

Hearing on HB2905 - an act relating to the public health and welfare of all Kansans; creating the Kansas commission on health; providing for the powers, duties, and functions thereof.

Upon calling the meeting , Chairperson Susan Wagle announced that since there were quite a few conferees to testify, they would begin by calling on the first proponent, Representative Carlos Mayans who cited four reasons why he supported this bill. No written testimony was provided.

The next proponent was Representative Bob Bethell who stated that often the reason that the cost of the delivery of health care is large and growing larger every day is because of the choices that the people of Kansas make on a daily basis. He also stated that the Kansas Commission on Health is designed to be gender neutral, geographically and ethnic neutral and is intended to focus on the areas of prevention, wellness and public health, with the intent of creating an atmosphere that will cause the easing of the delivery of services in both the urban and rural areas of Kansas. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The third proponent was Ms. Sally Finney, Executive Director, Kansas Public Health Association who stated that the association appreciated that this legislation clearly intends to Commission to emphasize disease prevention, a major component of public health and that while the association believes there is merit to health planning, past experience has taught them that this kind of work is meaningless if it lacks the commitment necessary to take the next steps and implement the recommendations derived from the planning process. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment 2) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as references.

The fourth proponent was Mr. Clyde Graeber, Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, who stated that this is a step in the right direction toward determining what are the needed levels of health care services and what can be done toward improving prevention, health promotion, and a reduction of disparities of health care delivery among our Kansas population. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 3) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Dr. Robert St Peter, President, Kansas Health Institute was the fifth proponent to testify covering a range of topics such as why a "Health" Commission in Kansas, determinants of health, ten leading causes of death in the U.S., actual causes of death, what do we spend on health in the U.S., and U.S. outcomes (better and worse). A copy of his testimony is ([Attachment 4](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The six proponent was Ms. Carolyn Middendorf, Kansas State Nurses Association who commented on the commission's composition and funding/operations stating that they are concerned with increasing the funding for the Commission and propose that other government entities assist in obtaining funding for the group. A copy of her testimony is ([Attachment 5](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The final proponent was Mr. Jerry Slaughter, Kansas Medical Society, who said the society supports the underlying concept in this bill, which is to create a commission with broad representation that begins a dialogue on ways the state can work towards improving the health of Kansans. A copy of his testimony is ([Attachment 6](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Written testimony was provided by Mr. Ernest Kutzley, Associate State Director/Advocacy, AARP Kansas, and is ([Attachment 7](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Neutral testimony was provided by Ms. Rebecca Rice, Legislative Counsel, Kansas Chiropractic Association, who requested an amendment to the bill. She stated the amendment would include a chiropractor in the composition of the commission created by this legislation to adequately have representation from the licensed provider group which regularly practices illness prevention and whole health promotion by several methods including natural methods. A copy of her testimony is ([Attachment 8](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

Questions for Ms. Rice, Mr. Slaughter, Secretary Graeber, Dr. St. Peters were taken at this time from Senators Haley, Steineger, and Barnett and Mr. Furse ranging from do chiropractors offer enhancements preventatives "with natural means", the language differing from the bill, investigations, social-economic-and-environmental factors, scope of commission, how funds could be received, to comments ranging from the mechanism here is the legislature creating this type of fund to political clout and will to get this health care prevention across.

As there were no further comments or questions, the Chair closed the hearing.

Adjournment

Adjournment time was at 12:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2002.

CONTINUATION SHEET