

Approved: April 3, 2007  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE HEALTH CARE STRATEGIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Susan Wagle at 1:30 P.M. on March 19, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Ms. Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mrs. Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mr. Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Ms. Nobuko Folmsbee, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Ms. Larrie Ann Lower, Executive Director,  
Kansas Association of Health Plans  
Ms. Cheryl Dillard, Director of Government Relations,  
Coventry Health Care  
Mr. Brad Smoot, Legislative Counsel,  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City  
Mr. Chad Austin, Vice President Government Relations,  
Kansas Hospital Association  
Dr. Marcia Nielsen, Executive Director,  
Kansas Health Policy Authority

Others in attendance: Please see attached Guest List

### **Continued discussion & final action on SB 309 - an act enacting the KS Health Care Connector Act**

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairperson Wagle referred the Committee to the new version of **SB309** placed before them. A copy of this handout is (Attachment 1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced. She then called on Ms. Larrie Ann Lower, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Health Plans (KAHP) who stated:

A.) Their organization's members serve most of all Kansans with private health insurance and Kansans that are enrolled in Healthwave and Medicaid managed care;

B.) Appear in support of the proposed Substitute for **SB309** and agree a complete review of the issues involved by the KHPA with continued oversight by the Health Policy Authority Oversight Committee is a positive step;

C.) Commend Senators Barnett and Wagle, and other members of the Committee for their leadership and allowing so many conferees to participate in public discussion on the connector and other proposals to attempt to help the uninsured.

A copy of her testimony is (Attachment 2) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The next conferee to be called on was Ms. Cheryl Dillard, Director of Government Relations, who stated that they are pleased to be one of the health insurance plans offered to Kansas state employees. She also commended Senator Barnett and Wagle for their leadership. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment 3) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Mr. Brad Smoot, Legislative Counsel, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City (BCBS) was the third conferee, who stated that the substitute language offered to **SB309** appears to be calculated to insure that all information and expertise are made available before the legislature undertakes definitive health care financing reform. Mr. Smoot also offered a letter from BCBS of Kansas to the Chair of the Senate Health Care Strategies Committee

A copy of his testimony and the letter is (Attachment 4) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Chair then called on Mr. Chad Austin, vice President Government Relations, Kansas Hospital Association, who stated that the substitute for **SB309** would require KHPA to develop health care finance reform options, including an analysis of the Kansas health care insurance connector and other initiatives that increase access to affordable health insurance and the bill is consistent with the principles developed by the Health for All Kansans Steering Committee, and they do support the bill. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 5) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The last to testify was Dr. Nielsen, who was not yet available and so the Chair recognized Mr. Andy Allison, Deputy Director from KHPA who expressed their support for the enabling legislation embodied in the substitute language for **SB309**. He also provided some background on the health reform process unfolding in Kansas this year and how this enabling legislation sets out a road map for health reform over the course of the next year and in the years to come. A copy of Dr. Nielsen's testimony is (Attachment 6) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chair then asked the audience if there was anyone else who wanted to speak to the new substitute bill, seeing none, she asked if there were any questions of the conferees, seeing none, the Chair mentioned that Ms. Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department, has had an opportunity to "fly speck" the bill and did have some technical changes. The Chair asked if she would explain these changes.

Ms. Correll stated:

A.) The first change could be found on page 1, line nine, where it begins "the 2008 regular session . . . ," change the "the" before Kansas to "a" because "the" seems to imply we already have this connector rather than that is what is supposed to be studied;

B.) On page 2, subsection C:

1.) Beginning on line 6, delete "by serving as a clearinghouse a" and then change "facilitate" and continue to read, "facilitating pooling and purchasing of health insurance," Then, place this statement, which will now become (4), under subsection (b), the goal section, on the first page;

2.) At the end of line 5, place a period after the word "decisions."

3.) On line 6, where it reads "to facilitate access" should be changed and continue to read as "facilitating access to health insurance by small businesses and individuals." Then place this statement, which will now become (5), under subsection (b), the goal section, on the first page;

4.) On line 8 and 9, the remaining text, "as a component of the options proposed under subsection (a)" would be deleted.

D.) (4) and (5) are also included with the goals that you want the Authority to follow and analyze in making their proposals.

The Chair stated that what is still on books is the original **SB309**, therefore a substitute bill would be in order.

Senator Journey made a motion to substitute the proposed amended language offered by Mr. Correll and pass out favorably. It was seconded by Senator Barnett. As there was no discussion, the motion carried.

### Adjournment

As there was no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting. The time was 2:30 p.m.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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