

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH POLICY

February 07, 2005
1:00 P.M.

Hearing Room B
Tapes 10 - 11
Corrected 9/30/05

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
Sen. Jeff Kruse, Vice-Chair
Sen. Peter Courtney
Sen. Bill Morrisette

MEMBER EXCUSED: Sen. Gary George

STAFF PRESENT: Rick Berkobien, Committee Administrator
Brittany Kenison, Committee Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:
SB 189 – Public Hearing
Hepatitis C - Informational Meeting
SB 400 – Public Hearing

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 10, A		
003	Chair Monnes Anderson	Calls meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Opens public hearing on SB 189.
<u>SB 189 – PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
005	Rick Berkobien	Committee Administrator. Explains SB 189.
020	Lorraine Duncan	Department of Human Services. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 189 (EXHIBIT A).
055	Duncan	Submits written testimony on behalf of Jay Rosenbloom, MD, PhD in support of SB 189 (EXHIBIT B).
060	Dr. Paul Cieslak	Manager, Communicable Disease Section. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 189 (EXHIBIT C).
095	Sen. Kruse	Asks if anyone discovered the correlation between thimerosal and increase in autism
097	Cieslak	Answers no, but adds speculation about diagnostic.
105	Sen. Morrisette	Clarifies that less thimerosal is being used with vaccines.
110	Cieslak	Answers that kids are getting almost no thimerosal in their vaccines.
112	Sen. Morrisette	Asks how prevalent the thimerosal in influenza vaccine.
115	Cieslak	Explains how they are not using multi dose viles.
120	Chair Monnes Anderson	Asks if Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) did not approve the thimerosal free syringe.
125	Duncan	Explains that the needles were not OSHA compliant.
135	Sen. Kruse	Refers to influenza vaccine and asks if there is a price difference between single and the multi dose viles.
138	Duncan	Answers that it is approximately one to two dollars difference.
140	Sen. Kruse	Indicates that the cost savings adds up.
142	Chair Monnes Anderson	Affirms.

145	Bernard Bueffel	MD. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 189 (EXHIBIT D) .
190	Sen. Kruse	Asks if shortage during the past year was with bulk needles as well as single shot needles.
195	Bueffel	Notes that single shot syringes are less readily availability because they are not in as much demand. Also comments on a company that did not have as many needles as said.
200	Sen. Kruse	Remarks on creating regulations to prevent unnecessary shortages.
210	James Lace	MD, Oregon Medical Association. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 189 (EXHIBIT E) .
240	Chair Monnes Anderson	Comments on correlation of autism and thimerosal. Closes public hearing on SB 189. Opens informational meeting on Hepatitis C.

HEPATITIS C - INFORMATIONAL MEETING

245	Mel Kohn	State Epidemiologist, Office of Disease Prevention & Epidemiology, Oregon Department of Human Services. Submits and presents report on "State of Oregon Hepatitis C Strategic Plan" (EXHIBIT F) .
315	Sen. Morrisette	Asks what percent of the population has Hepatitis C.
320	Kohn	Reports that two percent is infected.
325	Sen. Morrisette	Asks to report how many in the prison system have Hepatitis C.
330	Kohn	Answers that 30 percent are infected with Hepatitis C.
335	Morrisette	Asks if there is a treatment program for infected inmates after they are released to prevent further infection of the general population.
335	Kohn	Recognizes importance of issue, but defers to Lorren Sandt to address later.
340	Kohn	Continues discussing effects of Hepatitis C.
375	Kohn	Points out that on page 12 and 13 in the report, there is a list of people who participated in the report. Explains that groups are broke down into five sub topics to strategize.
405	Kohn	Refers to page 21 to explain the key guide and the layout.
TAPE 11, A		
003	Lorren Sandt	Managing Ambassador, Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors Program. Submits written testimony about the Hepatitis C Report (EXHIBIT G) .
025	Sandt	Reviews statistics for human, societal and fiscal costs.
045	Sandt	Summarizes and concludes.
050	Sen. Morrisette	Comments on previous testing procedures for Hepatitis C in the Department of Corrections (DOC) and asks is problem has been rectified.
060	Sandt	Understands that DOC is working very hard to solve the issue.
062	Chair Monnes Anderson	Asks what the Hepatitis C treatment consists of.
065	Sandt	Explains the treatments available.
065	Chair Monnes Anderson	Asks how long the treatment takes
067	Sandt	Responds that the treatment can take six months to a year.
068	Chair Monnes Anderson	Comments on the importance of addressing the rising number of infected and action steps from Oregon Department of Human Services that does not require money.
070	Sen. Kruse	Comments on changing lifestyle when people are in early stages of Hepatitis C. Asks if other approaches taken, are with early interventions of the disease.

095	Kohn	Explains that they are working on trying to address intervention program with resources. Member of company has been working on Hepatitis C intervention/prevention program.
110	Sen. Kruse	Comments on importance of intervention and prevention programs because it is more cost efficient short and long term.
113	Chair Monnes Anderson	Asks what the cost is for six months treatment for one person.
115	Sandt	Answers that it is \$24,000 to \$36,000 per year. Reports that Texas has implemented testing and it currently costs \$8.50. Also comments that once patients reach a certain level, it is more costly to treat.
125	Chair Monnes Anderson	Asks how much a transplant costs.
126	Sandt	Answers approximately \$300,000 and notes that it does not include life long care needed.
128	Sen. Morrisette	Comments that in his personal experience, they test for Hepatitis A and B only. Asks if they do not test for Hepatitis C because it is an insurance issue.
130	Kohn	Answers how the testing can vary.
145	Sen. Morrisette	Clarifies that some general practitioners can choose to test for Hepatitis C, or is it related to suspicion.
150	Kohn	Explains how the general testing works and when they test for Hepatitis C.
155	Sen. Kruse	Asks for information on how Texas lowered the price of testing.
160	Sandt	Offers to return information to the committee.
165	Chair Monnes Anderson	Comments on need to find possible federal grants to help.
167	Sandt	Comments on bill being introduced to help address funds and education issue
185	Chair Monnes Anderson	Asks for solution coming from the committee.
187	Sandt	Urges for awareness and getting risk factors out, would make huge difference. Noted that organization asked Governor for proclamation for May for "hepatitis awareness month." Asks committee members to participate.
200	Sen. Kruse	Comments on need to address the issue.
205	Chair Monnes Anderson	Comments on committee support.
215	Chair Monnes Anderson	Closes informational meeting on Hepatitis C. Opens public hearing on SB 400.
<u>SB 400 – PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
217	Sen. Ben Westlund	Senate District # 27. Testifies in support in SB 400.
250	Sen. Westlund	Discusses current issues that led to create SB 400.
280	Sen. Kruse	Refers to patient safety commission created during the 2003 legislative session to protect patients. Asks Sen. Westlund if he has had discussion from this group regarding the issues addressed under SB 400.
290	Sen. Westlund	Comments that he has not spoke with them. Adds that OPR should also address the issue.
300	Chair Monnes Anderson	Comments that the safety commission is not ready to testify.
302	Sen. Morrisette	Asks what OPR stands for.
303	Sen. Westlund	Answers that the OPR stands for Oregon Public Research.
320	Sen. Westlund	Summarizes and concludes.

340	Sen. Kruse	Asks if a workgroup would be proper way to handle issue.
345	Sen. Westlund	Affirms
350	Sen. Morrisette	Asks if Sen. Westlund is responsible for the constituents whose emails he has been receiving in support of this bill.
355	Sen. Westlund	Answers no.
365	Rick Berkobien	Committee Administrator. Notes that Consumer Union has a website to search for lawmakers.
385	Paul Cieslak	MD, Manager, Communicable Disease Section. Submits and presents written testimony in opposition of SB 400 (EXHIBIT H). Notes that he is in opposition of the bill, not the issue of hospital infections.
005	Cieslak	Continues discussion of concerns of SB 400.
TAPE 10, B		
015	Anne Eades	Infection Control Practitioner, Association of Professionals and Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC). Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 400 (EXHIBIT I).
025	Eades	Explains that currently there are hospital staff for prevention of infections. Explains their roles and the procedures.
050	Sen. Morrisette	Asks Eades to comment that, currently, there are no national standards for collecting and comparing infection rates.
052	Eades	Explains that the Centers for Disease Control has national surveillance program, but the program only supports 300 members. Also explains that the center has there own standards for the members to follow. Comments that most hospitals may go by the programs, but there are not recognized as a member.
065	Sen. Morrisette	Asks if a uniform procedure for collecting data is a goal.
067	Eades	Explains how the center uses the information. Notes that APIC is in favor of standardizing definitions.
080	Sen. Morrisette	Asks Eades if she feels that there is not a check and balance system.
090	Eades	Believes that infection problem is an emerging problem.
100	Sen. Courtney	Comments on the decrease of infection rates. Refers to the last paragraph of exhibit I. Asks Eades to clarify. Also refers to bill on page 2 line 10. Comments on other states and their use of approaches to the issue at hand.
130	Chair Monnes Anderson	Comments on the safety commission to help on these issues.
135	Sen. Morrisette	Asks Mel Kohn how this relates to the health department and if so, what is the department doing to address the issue.
140	Mel Kohn	Explains that it related to the previous question asked by the committee, whether or not it is a systemic issue.
155	Sen. Morrisette	Asks what the responsibility is of the public health department to see that public health is protected in hospitals.
160	Kohn	Responds that they work closes with hospitals.
163	Sen. Morrisette	Asks if they have an oversight responsibility.
168	Kohn	They do have an oversight responsibility to protect the public's health.
170	Sen. Morrisette	Asks at what point does the department address the issue.
171	Kohn	Explains when the department steps in to address issues.
175	Sen. Morrisette	Clarifies that the department does have statutory authority with hospitals.
175	Kohn	Answers yes, but notes that issue is out of his area.
210	Chair Monnes Anderson	Asks if it is Cielsak department needs to address the question.

211	Kohn	Affirms
212	Sen. Morrisette	Clarifies that they do have a punitive responsibility.
218	Kohn	Affirms.
220	Sen. Morrisette	Comments on previous discussion with Chief Medical Officer of Oregon, and if he can call an emergency. Asks what authority the officer has.
240	Kohn	Explains that he does not have exact answer
242	Chair Monnes Anderson	Interjects and states that they will continue discussion with the safety commission present.
245	Eades	Comments on Sen. Courtney's previous question regarding the meeting with Cieslak and notes the agenda of the meeting.
260	Bruce Bishop	Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems. Testifies for SB 400. Comments on national and local efforts to make hospitals safe.
275	Jim Carlson	Oregon Health Care Association. Testifies in opposition of SB 400. Adds that the bill refers to facilities, so it also represents nursing as well. Adds that there is a website with infections statistics.
310	Carlson	Comments that if the bill passes then it would be duplications of website information.
320	Chair Monnes Anderson	Comments that if long term hospitals keep a database, then hospitals could possibly have one also.
325	Carlson	Explains nursing facilities comprehensive statues.
340	Sen. Kruse	Comments on data collection difference between nursing facilities and hospitals.
360	Carlson	Expresses support of the Patient Safety Commission from the start, but believes that it would be inappropriate for the commission to address the issue.
363	Chair Monnes Anderson	Asks if Carlson is a member of the Patient Safety Commission.
365	Carlson	Answers that one of licensed nurse administrators is a member and adds that the association has financial supported the commission.
367	Chair Monnes Anderson	Closes public hearing on SB 400. Adjourns meeting at 2:26 p.m.

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. SB 189, written testimony, Lorraine Duncan, 2 pp**
- B. SB 189, written testimony from Jay Rosenbloom, Lorraine Duncan, 1 p**
- C. SB 189, written testimony, Paul Cieslak, 3 pp**
- D. SB 189, written testimony, Bernard Bueffel, 1 p**
- E. SB 189, written testimony, James Lace, 2 pp**
- F. Hepatitis C, report, Mel Kohn, 36 pp**
- G. Hepatitis C, written testimony, Lorren Sandt, 6 pp**
- H. SB 400, written testimony, Paul Cieslak, 2 pp**
- I. SB 400, written testimony, Anne Eades, 9 pp**