

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH POLICY

March 02, 2005
1:00 P.M.

Hearing Room B
Tapes 31 - 32

Corrected 9/29/2005

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

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

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:
 Financial Policies for Uninsured and Underinsured Patients – Informational Meeting
 SB 504 – 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.

| <u>TAPE/#</u> | <u>Speaker</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
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| TAPE 31, A | | |
| 003 | Chair Monnes Anderson | Calls the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Opens an informational meeting on “financial policies for uninsured and underinsured patients.” |
| <u>UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED PATIENTS, FINANCIAL POLICIES FOR – INFORMATIONAL MEETING</u> | | |
| 020 | Kevin Earls | Vice President, Finance and Health Policy, Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems. Submits and present written testimony regarding SB 504 and hospital financial assistance programs (EXHIBIT A), a report from the “Patient Friendly Billing” project (EXHIBIT B) and a booklet entitled, “Financial Assistance Guidelines” (EXHIBIT C). |
| 100 | Earls | Continues to testify regarding hospital financial systems. |
| 136 | Sen. Morrisette | Comments on previous testimony heard during the 2003-2004 interim that an organization paid patient premiums. Asks to clarify that the hospitals are now paying patient premiums. |
| 140 | Earls | Responds. |
| 152 | Sen. Morrisette | Asks if the program Earls referred to is public knowledge. |
| 153 | Earls | Responds, no. Elaborates |
| 163 | Aaron Crane | Chief Financial Officer, Salem Hospital. Submits and presents an informational packet regarding Salem Hospital statistics and SB 504 (EXHIBIT D). |
| 194 | Sen. Morrisette | Asks Crane for an example of reasonable collection practices. |
| 195 | Crane | Responds. |
| 203 | Chair Monnes Anderson | States that the informational meeting will last for a half an hour, and then she will open a public hearing on SB 504. |
| 205 | Sen. Morrisette | Asks Crane a question regarding the conditions of repayment. |
| 206 | Crane | Responds. Continues testimony regarding Salem Hospital’s statistics. |

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| 219 | Chair Monnes Anderson | Asks Crane a question regarding charity care accounting practices from 2000-2005. |
| 223 | Crane | Responds. Continues testimony regarding Salem Hospital's statistics. |
| 237 | Chair Monnes Anderson | Asks Crane to explain the effect of costs from Halliburton's federal program. |
| 240 | Crane | Responds. |
| 244 | Rick Berkobien | Committee Administrator. Asks Crane a question regarding the relation of Salem Hospital's charity care and Halliburton's federal program. |
| 246 | Crane | Answers question. |
| 251 | Sen. Kruse | Comments on charity care and Halliburton's federal program. |
| 253 | Crane | Continues to testify regarding Salem Hospital's statistics. |
| 286 | Sen. Morrisette | Discusses funds that are federally matched. Asks Crane a question regarding the funds received from the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). |
| 293 | Crane | Responds. |
| 300 | Sen. Morrisette | Discusses how fees may have increased the number of charity care for patients. Asks Crane if the implementation of the fee is a benefit for hospitals. |
| 303 | Crane | Responds, no. Elaborates. |
| 306 | Earls | Discusses how hospitals do not benefit from the fee. |
| TAPE 32, A | | |
| 018 | Kevin McAndrews | Health System Director, Patient Financial Services, PeaceHealth. Submits and presents a fact sheet about the 2004 PeaceHealth Health Benefits Fairs (EXHIBIT E) and a brochure about PeaceHealth's Financial Services (EXHIBIT F). |
| 086 | Chair Monnes Anderson | Asks McAndrews if patients arriving at the emergency room (ER) are treated first, or do staff find out what kind of insurance they have prior to treatment. |
| 091 | McAndrews | Answers that patients are treated first, regardless of their ability to pay. |
| 100 | Chair Monnes Anderson | Discusses a personal experience with her uninsured son going to the ER. Discusses the need of transparency in hospitals. |
| 114 | McAndrews | Comments on how PeaceHealth is proactive about providing financial information to patients. |
| 120 | Crane | Asks the Chair how long ago her son was in the ER. |
| 121 | Chair Monnes Anderson | Responds, two years ago. |
| 122 | Crane | Discusses the improvement with new staff at Salem Hospital within the last year. |
| 123 | Chair Monnes Anderson | Closes the informational meeting on "financial policies for uninsured and underinsured patients" and opens a public hearing on SB 504. |
| <u>SB 504 – PUBLIC HEARING</u> | | |
| 126 | Rick Berkobien | Committee Administrator. Presents overview of SB 504. |
| 163 | Beth Barrinson | ACORN – Oregon. Submits and presents written testimony on behalf of Jacquelyn Bell, member, ACORN - Oregon, in support of SB 504 (EXHIBIT G) and on behalf of Arran Stokes, member, ACORN – Oregon, in support of SB 504 (EXHIBIT H). Testifies in support of SB 504. |
| 184 | Jack Berger | Member, ACORN – Oregon. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 504 (EXHIBIT I). |
| 257 | Thomas Edward | Member, ACORN – Oregon. Submits and presents written |

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| | Mullin | testimony in support of SB 504 (EXHIBIT J). |
| 350 | Mullin | Continues testimony. |
| TAPE 31, B | | |
| 018 | Elizabeth Beyers | Oregon Health Action Campaign. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 504 (EXHIBIT K) and a practice agreement for Oregon hospitals (EXHIBIT L). |
| 070 | Beyers | Continues testimony. |
| 113 | Mary Lou Hennrich | Oregon Health Action Campaign. Submits and presents written testimony on half of Ellen Pinney, Oregon Health Action Campaign, in support of SB 504 (EXHIBIT M). |
| 170 | Hennrich | Continues testimony. |
| 220 | Bruce Bishop | Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems. Submits and presents written analysis of SB 504 (EXHIBIT N). |
| 310 | Bishop | Concludes testimony. |
| 320 | Chair Monnes | Asks Bishop if there are additional concerns that he would like to address. |
| | Anderson | |
| 321 | Bishop | Responds, yes. Discusses concerns. |
| TAPE 32, B | | |
| 020 | Bishop | Continues testimony. |
| 070 | Les Helgeson | Citizen, Beaver, Oregon. Testifies in support of SB 504. |
| 100 | Laurie Alton | Pro Bono Manager, Portland, Oregon. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 504 (EXHIBIT O). |
| 141 | Lynn-Marie Crider | Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 49 and Local 503. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 504 (EXHIBIT P). |
| 183 | Sen. Morrisette | Discusses using additional revenue and federal matches. |
| 193 | Crider | Comments on Sen. Morrisette's statement. Continues testimony. |
| 226 | Chair Monnes | Comments on the need to address issues that Bishop discussed. |
| | Anderson | Closes the public hearing on SB 504. Adjourns the meeting at 3:00 p.m. |

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. Uninsured and Underinsured Patients, Financial Policies for, SB 504, written testimony, Kevin Earls, 3 pp**
- B. Uninsured and Underinsured Patients, Financial Policies for, report, Kevin Earls, 22 pp**
- C. Uninsured and Underinsured Patients, Financial Policies for, booklet, Kevin Earls, 12 pp**
- D. Uninsured and Underinsured Patients, Financial Policies for, SB 504, informational packet, Aaron Crane, 21 pp**
- E. Uninsured and Underinsured Patients, Financial Policies for, fact sheet, Kevin McAndrews, 1 p**
- F. Uninsured and Underinsured Patients, Financial Policies for, brochure, Kevin McAndrews, 2 pp**
- G. SB 504, written testimony of Jacqueline Bell, Beth Barrinson, 3 pp**
- H. SB 504, written testimony of Arron Stokes, Beth Barrinson, 3 pp**
- I. SB 504, written testimony, Jack Berger, 5 pp**
- J. SB 504, written testimony, Thomas Mullen, 3 pp**
- K. SB 504, written testimony, Elizabeth Beyers, 2 pp**
- L. SB 504, practice agreement, Elizabeth Beyers, 2 pp**
- M. SB 504, written testimony of Ellen Pinney, Mary Lou Hennrich, 17 pp**
- N. SB 504, written analysis, Bruce Bishop, 5 pp**

O. SB 504, written testimony, Lori Alton, 1 p

P. SB 504, written testimony, Lynn-Marie Crider, 6 pp