

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

March 24, 2005
3:00 P.M

Hearing Room D
Tapes 41 - 43

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Bill Morrisette, Chair
Sen. Jeff Kruse, Vice-Chair
Sen. Rick Metsger
Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson
Sen. Charles Starr

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

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:

SB 973 – Public Hearing
SB 303 – Public Hearing and Work Session
SB 374 – Public Hearing
SB 818 – Public Hearing
SB 417 – 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 41, A		
003	Chair Morrisette	Calls the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m. Opens a public hearing on SB 973.
<u>SB 973 – PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
005	Rick Berkobien	Committee Administrator. Notes that SB 750 has been withdrawn.
020	Chair Morrisette	Stands the committee at ease to call Ron Johnson via conference call.
021	Chair Morrisette	Reconvenes the meeting.
025	Sen. Kate Brown	Senate District 21. Testifies in support of SB 973.
045	Ron Johnson	Citizen, Medford, Oregon. Testifies in support of SB 973.
085	Sen. Brown	States that she is willing to participate in a work group on SB 973 and SB 417.
093	Sen. Kruse	Remarks that the bill could cause more issues.
105	Sen. Brown	Comments on Johnson's personal story.
120	Sen. Kruse	Comments on the need to be sensitive to the adoption process.
The following material is submitted for the record without public testimony:		
	Julie McFarlane	Supervising Attorney, Juvenile Rights Project. Submits written testimony regarding SB 973 (EXHIBIT A).
	Kathy Ledesma	Children, Adults and Families, Office of Safety and Permanency for Children, Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS). Submits written testimony in opposition to SB 973 (EXHIBIT L).
130	Chair Morrisette	Closes the public hearing on SB 973 and opens a public hearing on SB 303.
<u>SB 303 – PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
132	Rick Berkobien	Committee Administrator. Explains the bill.

137	Rocky King	Administrator, Insurance Pool Governing Board. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 303 (EXHIBIT B).
190	King	Continues testifying in support of SB 303.
230	Chair Morrisette	Asks if there is a fiscal impact to the bill.
233	King	Answers question.
240	Chair Morrisette	States that bill could pass if there is no fiscal impact.
248	King	Assures committee that the fiscal impact would be minimal.
255	Sen. Kruse	Asks if the bill gives authority to transfer money.
263	King	Answers, yes. Explains.
268	Sen. Metsger	Refers to page 11 of the bill, lines 8 through 10. Comments on interpreting aggregate data and asks to comment on how that would be done.
285	King	Provides explanation.
308	Sen. Metsger	States that he is satisfied with explanation.
309	Sen. Monnes	Asks how the data is collected.
	Anderson	
313	King	Responds that it comes from applications.
320	Sen. Monnes	Asks if the department will need software.
	Anderson	
322	King	Answers that they already have it. Clarifies the intent of the bill.
333	Sen. Kruse	Comments that he supports the program and previous legislation.
345	Chair Morrisette	States that he has to confirm with the Senate President's office to rescind the referral. States that a public hearing and work session will be rescheduled.
360	Sen. Monnes	Comments on the name change of the department.
	Anderson	
380	King	Comments on the goals of the department.
395	Chair Morrisette	States that a work session will be held. Closes the public hearing on SB 303 and opens a work session on SB 303.

SB 303 – WORK SESSION

400 **Sen. Kruse**

MOTION: Moves SB 303 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation and the SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL to the committee on Ways and Means BE RESCINDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Chair Morrisette

Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED. SEN. METSGER will lead discussion on the floor.

450 **Chair Morrisette**

Closes the work session on SB 303 and opens a public hearing on SB 374.

TAPE 42, A

SB 374 – PUBLIC HEARING

010 Rick Berkobien
018 Courtni Dresser

Committee Administrator. Explains the bill.
Oregon Government Relations Director, American Cancer Society. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 374 (**EXHIBIT C**).

070 Dresser
095 Karen Kwong

Continues to testify in support of SB 374.
M.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 374 (**EXHIBIT D**).

097 Tina Helbig

Volunteer, American Cancer Society. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 374 (**EXHIBIT E**).

100 Helbig
150 Helbig

Continues testifying in support of SB 374.
Continues testifying in support of SB 374.

200	Helbig	Continues testifying in support of SB 374.
230	Senate President Courtney	Senate District 11. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 374 (EXHIBIT F) and a report on “Cancer Screening Coverage” (EXHIBIT G) .
280	Sen. Courtney	Continues testifying in support of SB 374.
330	Sen. Courtney	Continues testifying in support of SB 374.
380	Sen. Courtney	Continues testifying in support of SB 374.
420	Sen. C Starr	Comments on Sen. Courtney’s testimony.
435	Sen. Courtney	Discusses colon testing and states that it is a painless procedure.
447	Sen. Kruse	Comments on his personal experience with a colonoscopy.
TAPE 41, B		
005	Pam Lally	Regence BlueCross BlueShield. Testifies with a neutral position to SB 374.
013	Chair Morrisette	Asks Lally to provide changes needed for the bill.
015	Lally	Discusses changes needed to define language in the bill.
040	Sen. Kruse	Asks about change needed for section two (2) of the bill.
043	Lally	Provides explanation.
045	Chair Morrisette	Asks if the bill is a mandate by the insurance companies.
047	Lally	Answers, no.
048	Sen. Kruse	States agreement that changes are needed for the bill. Asks if the bill, with proposed changes, reflects current procedures.
052	Lally	Responds, yes.
055	Sen. Kruse	Comments on addressing changes.
060	Chair Morrisette	Stands the committee at ease.
061	Chair Morrisette	Reconvenes the meeting. Closes the public hearing and SB 374 on opens a public hearing on SB 818.
<u>SB 818 – PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
070	Sen. Frank Shields	Senate District 24. Testifies in support of SB 818.
120	Sen. Shields	Continues testifying in support of SB 818.
160	Sen. Kruse	Comments on using community resources because of lack of funds.
175	Sen. Shields	Comments on Kruse’s statement.
177	Richard Whitwer	Manager, Service Delivery Area 7, Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS). Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 818 (EXHIBIT H) .
268	Sen. Monnes Anderson	Asks Whitwer to verify the number of people who were contacted about the program.
270	Whitwer	Answers questions.
282	Sen. Shields	Discusses suggestion that he made to (DHS. Speaks about the study performed.
317	Whitwer	Comments on what DHS is now working toward from the assessment and implementations.
400	Chair Morrisette	Comments in favor of the bill.
404	Whitwer	States possible issues with the bill.
425	Gary Weeks	Director, Oregon DHS. Testifies in support of the bill.
TAPE 42, B		
005	Weeks	Summarizes and concludes.
010	Chair Morrisette	Comments on his personal experience with community involvement. Asks for opinion on fiscal impact.
020	Weeks	Provides explanation.
030	Sen. Kruse	Comments on rescinding the bill to the Ways and Means committee.
040	Sen. Shields	Comments on how the bill will help people and save money.
052	Andrea Meyer	American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU). Testifies in

100	Meyer	opposition to SB 818.
150	Meyer	Continues testifying in opposition to SB 818.
155	Chair Morrisette	Addresses concerns with the language of the bill.
		Closes public hearing on SB 818. States that he would like the opponents and proponents to meet and come to a resolution.
		Opens a public hearing on SB 417.
<u>SB 417 – PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
165	Rep. Dave Hunt	House District 40. Submits written testimony on behalf of Joan Callander, President, Images & Information Inc., in support of SB 417 (EXHIBIT I) . Testifies in support of SB 417.
200	Rep. Hunt	Continues to testify in support of SB 417.
245	Sen. Kruse	Asks to clarify that the relative's rights supersede the rights of the adoptive parents.
250	Rep. Hunt	Answers question.
260	Sen. Kruse	States how he interprets the bill.
270	Rep. Hunt	Speculates on how the courts operate. Explains that SB 417 would give grandparents and other blood relatives a voice in court.
278	Sen. Kruse	Clarifies that he only wants to implement changes that would not hinder the current adoption program in Oregon.
285	Chair Morrisette	Stands the committee at ease to call a witness.
290	Chair Morrisette	Reconvenes the meeting. States that the witness was not available.
295	Meg Goldberg	Private Mediator, Portland, Oregon. Submits and presents written testimony without a stated position on SB 417 (EXHIBIT J) .
345	Goldberg	Continues testifying on SB 417. States that DHS opposes section (5) and section six (6) of the bill.
395	Goldberg	Continues testimony on SB 417.
TAPE 43, A		
003	Chair Morrisette	Comments on the intent of the bill.
012	Goldberg	Discusses benefits of having the mediation program at DHS.
015	Chair Morrisette	Clarifies that mediation always occurs before the adoption process.
016	Goldberg	Affirms.
020	Kathy Ledesma	Adoption Manager, Children, Adults and Families, Oregon DHS. Submits and presents written testimony in opposition to SB 417 (EXHIBIT K) .
070	Ledesma	Continues testifying in opposition to SB 417.
095	Chair Morrisette	Asks what kind of claim low income relatives would need from the department to defend them in court.
098	Ledesma	Responds. Explains the mediation program.
103	Chair Morrisette	Asks what fiscal responsibility the department has with disputes once the adoption process has been completed.
104	Ledesma	Answers question.
105	Chair Morrisette	Asks if the department has an obligation to provide services.
110	Ledesma	States that it is current practice.
115	Chair Morrisette	Discusses need of a possible work group as there are multiple bills addressing the same issue.
124	Sen. Kruse	Comments on the intent of the bill. Discusses the Adoption Task Force created in the 1997 session.
135	Ledesma	States that she will participate in a work group.
The following material is submitted for the record without public testimony:		
	Mark Kramer	Attorney, Portland, Oregon. Submits written testimony in

support of SB 417 (**EXHIBIT M**).

Closes the public hearing on SB 417 and adjourns the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

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EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. SB 973, written testimony, Julie McFarlane, 3 pp**
- B. SB 303, written testimony, Howard King, 4 pp**
- C. SB 374, written testimony, Courtni Dresser, 2 pp**
- D. SB 374, written testimony, Karen Lynn Kwong, 2 pp**
- E. SB 374, written testimony, Tina Helbig, 1 p**
- F. SB 374, written testimony, Sen. Peter Courtney, 2 pp**
- G. SB 374, report, Sen. Peter Courtney, 11 pp**
- H. SB 818, written testimony, Richard Whitwer, 4 pp**
- I. SB 417, written testimony of Joan Callander, Rep. Dave Hunt, 2 pp**
- J. SB 417, written testimony, Meg Goldberg, 4 pp**
- K. SB 417, written testimony, Kathy Ledesma, 3 pp**
- L. SB 973, written testimony, Kathy Ledesma, 3 pp**
- M. SB 417, written testimony, Mark Kramer, 4 pp**