

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

March 26, 2001
1:00 PM

Hearing Room B
Tapes 63 - 64

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Bill Fisher, Chair
Sen. Margaret Carter, Vice-Chair
Sen. Gary George
Sen. Frank Shields
Sen. Ken Messerle

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Rick Berkobien, Administrator
Jennifer Simmons, Committee Assistant

MEASURES HEARD: SCR 8 Public Hearing and Work Session
SB 9 Public Hearing
SB 927 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> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| TAPE 63, A | | |
| 003 | Chair Fisher | Opens the meeting at 1:25 p.m. Opens a public hearing on SB 927. |
| <u>PUBLIC HEARING – SB 927</u> | | |
| 006 | Rick Berkobien | Administrator. Gives brief overview of the bill. |
| 035 | Sen. Carter | Introduces two students that are observing the committee meeting in the audience. |
| 045 | Tom Holt | Oregon State Pharmacists Association. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT A). |
| 089 | Sen. Carter | Says that she does not like the idea of being required to have a primary pharmacist. |
| 096 | Holt | Says that the purpose is to allow an enrollee to select a pharmacy and commit to it. |
| 104 | Sen. Carter | Says that she understands this but it irritates her that we have to go from having a primary doctor to having a primary pharmacy. |
| 121 | Sen. Minnis | Testifies in favor of the bill. Says that uninsured seniors are at greatest risk to not receive necessary prescription drugs. Explains what this bill would do to alleviate the problem. |
| 174 | Sen. Shields | Asks how large of a demographic we are talking about. |
| 180 | Sen. Minnis | Answers about 35,000 senior citizens. Says that the ultimate cost would be eleven and a half million dollars |
| 228 | Sen. Messerle | Says that Brookings Harbor has the highest percentage of seniors in the state. Asks if Sen. Minnis has reviewed SB 9. |
| 235 | Sen. Minnis | Answers that he has not reviewed SB 9. |
| 251 | Rep. V. Walker | Testifies in favor of the bill. Submits written materials (EXHIBIT B). Explains the difference between her House Bill |

3774 and this bill. Says that her father in law has spent over \$3000 a year for prescription medications.

332 Rep. Bates States his support of the bill. Speaks about seniors suffering due to the rising cost of prescription drugs. Says that as a physician he has hospitalized many patients because they could not afford their drugs and stopped taking them. Suggests a different way of handling the co-pay section of the bill.

420 Sen. Shields Asks about low income people whose hospital costs are often paid by the state.

445 Rep. Bates Answers that it would certainly save money if these people could take their medications without worry about cost. Gives an example of a senior whose hospital costs far out weighed the price of his medications.

TAPE 64, A

013 Sen. Shields Asks if the state paid any of this hospital cost.

022 Rep. Bates Answers that he was uninsured and paid none of his hospital bill.

037 Jim Davis Oregon Council of Senior Citizens. States his support of the bill. Reiterates the point that other health care costs would be avoided if people could afford their medications. Says that thirty percent of all prescription users are seniors. Speaks about co-payments.

100 Sen. Carter Says that Democrats do support seniors when it comes to prescription drugs. Explains that most people would prefer to have a choice. Asks if he agrees with the numbers provided by Sen. Minnis.

115 Davis Answers that those numbers were regarding his specific district. Explains the benefits of using one pharmacy.

133 Sen. Carter Responds that all of these pharmacies are big chains and are not capable of providing the customized care that he is speaking of.

155 Dan Kaplan Department of Human Services. Reads from written testimony **(EXHIBIT C)**.

188 Sen. Shields Asks how we can have such varied fiscal amounts for this bill.

200 Hersh Crawford Office of Medical Assistance Program. Answers by going through the assumptions they used to create their fiscal impact statement.

256 Sen. Shields Asks if they can provide this formula in writing.

261 Crawford Answers that he can provide this.

270 Sen. Messerle Asks if there are other ideas that are being brought forward that can provide better service without this fiscal amount.

282 Crawford Answers that the only bill he knows of is SB 876.

295 Sen. Messerle Asks if he is familiar with SB 9.

297 Crawford Answers that he is not.

307 Sen. Fisher Closes public hearing on SB 927 and opens public hearing on SCR 8.

PUBLIC HEARING – SCR 8

316 Berkobien Explains the bill.

361 Mary Slawosky American Association of Retired People. Reads from written testimony **(EXHIBIT D)**.

440 Jim Davis Oregon Council of Senior Citizens. Reads from written testimony **(EXHIBIT E)**.

TAPE 63, B

078 Brad Fields Legislative Assistant, Senator Trow. Says that he is there to speak for Sen. Trow who is in favor of this bill.

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|-----|-------------------|--|
| 109 | Mike Canton | Sacred Heart Medical Center. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT F) . |
| 152 | Rita VanDoren | OSU College of Pharmacy. Explains her experience with the program that Canton is speaking of. |
| 174 | Dr. Yves Vimignon | Oregon Medical Education Program. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT G) . |
| 246 | Verna VanDuyhoven | Oregon Nurses Association. States their support of the bill. Says that she has seen many seniors die prematurely due to incorrect dosages of prescription drugs. |
| 264 | Chair Fisher | Closes public hearing on SCR 8 and opens work session on SCR 8. |

WORK SESSION – SCR 8

273 Sen. George

MOTION: Moves SCR 8 be sent to the floor with a BE ADOPTED recommendation.

281

Chair Fisher

VOTE: 5-0

Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.

SEN. CARTER will lead discussion on the floor. Closes work session on SCR 8 and opens public hearing on SB 9.

PUBLIC HEARING – SB 9

299 Sen. Messerle

Testifies in favor of the bill. Says that this will help gain access for prescription drugs for low income citizens. Explains the bill and how it would be managed and implemented.

360 Chair Fisher

Enters a letter from the Oregon Health Resources Commission into the record **(EXHIBIT H)**. Enters a letter from Sen. Clarno into the record **(EXHIBIT I)**.

375 Sen. Shields

Asks what the reaction of pharmaceutical representatives is to this bill.

394 Sen. Messerle

Answers that they have not been in contact with him.

414 Sen. Shields

Asks if this bill could create an opportunity to collaborate with pharmaceutical representatives.

423 Sen. Messerle

Answers that this bill would keep them individual.

TAPE 64, B

001 Wayne Kradjan

Oregon State University. Speaks from written material **(EXHIBIT J)**.

052 Jim Davis

Oregon State Council of Senior Citizens. Expresses their strong support of SB 9. Says that they would like to see a more cooperative system to make all of these programs available to all who meet the criteria.

085 Sen. Shields

Asks how much of the seniors that are hooked into the web would meet the criteria.

087 Davis

Answers that those hooked into the web are probably at a higher income level.

089 Sen. Carter

Says that many of the low income seniors can get access to the internet.

096 Davis

Stresses that internet access is growing and there is also the 800 phone number.

103 Berkobien

Asks if there is any way to project the savings to the state.

108 Kradjan

Answers that he cannot give an exact dollar amount.

124 Davis

Responds that when access is increased it does have an aspect on other parts of health care costs.

138 Chair Fisher

Thanks the witnesses for testifying. Adjourns the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted By,

Jennifer Simmons,
Committee Assistant

Reviewed By,

Rick Berkobien,
Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A – written testimony, SB 927, Tom Holt, 1 pp

B – written materials, SB 927, Rep. V. Walker, 4 pp

C – written testimony, SB 927, Dan Kaplan, 1 pp

D – written testimony, SCR 8, Mary Slawosky, 1 pp

E – written testimony, SCR 8, Jim Davis, 2 pp

F – written testimony, SCR 8, Mike Canton, 1 pp

G – written testimony, SCR 8, Dr. Yves Vimignon, 2 pp

H – written testimony, SB 9, Oregon Health Resources Commission, 1 pp

I – written testimony, SB 9, Sen. Clarno, 1 pp

J – written testimony, SB 9, Wayne Kradjan, 1 pp