

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

February 16, 1999 Hearing Room E

1:00 PM Tapes 23 - 25

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Jeff Kruse, Chair

Rep. Kitty Piercy, Vice-Chair

Rep. Betsy Close

Rep. Tim Knopp

Rep. Jerry Krummel

Rep. Mike Lehman

Rep. Bill Morrisette

Rep. Jackie Taylor

Rep. Jackie Winters

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Janet L. Carlson, Administrator

Diane M. Lewis, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: HB 2268 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 22, A

004

Chair Kruse

Opens the meeting at 1:05 p.m. and opens a public hearing on HB 2268. States for the record that Oregon Education Association has submitted written testimony in opposition to HB 2268 (**EXHIBIT A**).

HB 2268 PUBLIC HEARING

028

Jim Clay

Executive Director, Multnomah County Commission on Children and Families, testifies in regard to HB 2268. Discusses Multnomah commission programs that are outside the realm of client services. States that the county's focus has turned to naming items it wants to achieve (positive focus) and not focus on what it wants to get rid of or avoid (negative focus). Explains that the commission is working to achieve 40 basic assets. These assets are research-based and when present in the community, predict that young people will be successful.

Lists examples of assets that are external for a child:

- Parent involvement in schooling
- Positive relationships with adults
- Caring school climate

Lists examples of assets that are internal to the child:

- Sense of integrity
- Capacity for having resistance skills
- Having a positive outlook of the future

States that the need of these assets in a child's life cross racial, gender, geographic, and ethnic issues. Explains that the 40 recognized assets are key to productive, accessible community action.

075

Clay

Discusses lessons learned by the commission through a research study of 10,000 young people in school districts across Multnomah County. Explains that the study asked kids which assets were present in their lives. States that young people with the lowest number of assets in their life (10 or fewer) were:

- 44 times more likely to abuse alcohol or other substances.
- 20 times more likely to be in trouble with the police.
- 18 times more likely to be involved with physical violence.

States that that the number of young people who reported the highest amount of assets (30 or more) in their lives experienced the fewest risk factors. Explains that the county has developed a campaign to get the community involved in reinforcing and implementing the 40 recognized assets. States that citizens must take personal responsibility to help young people thrive.

123

Muriel Goldman

Lay Member, Multnomah County Commission on Children and Families, submits and presents written testimony regarding HB 2268 (**EXHIBIT B**). Discusses how Multnomah County provides the context for healthy children and families stated in HB 2268, page 1, line 19, through community mobilization and asset-building.

198	Goldman	Continues testimony by explaining how the commission provides seed money and grants, EXHIBIT B , pages 1 and 2. Discusses the "Take the Time Campaign" EXHIBIT B , page 2.
260	Goldman	Provides the committee with suggested amendments by reading EXHIBIT B , pages 2 and 3. States that HB 2268, page 5, section 8 and page 6, section 9 are the greatest concern of the commission.
320	Goldman	Asks the committee to leave the Commission the way it is regarding the solicitation of board members, EXHIBIT B , page 3.
400	Goldman	States that policy development for community-based services should be a collaborative effort, EXHIBIT B , page 3. Submits written information regarding "Take the Time Collaboration Grants" (EXHIBIT C).
TAPE 24, A		
015	Francine Fiore	Director, Yamhill County, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, testifies in support of HB 2268. Introduces the panel that will speak on behalf of CASA and their support of HB 2268.
023	Marjorie Weesner	CASA volunteer, testifies in support of HB 2268. Explains that lack of resources prevents CASA from reaching more children in need of an advocate.
035	Carlie Kever	Yamhill CASA volunteer, testifies in support of HB 2268. States that children must have advocates in the court system because they cannot speak for themselves. Emphasizes that CASA needs additional funding so that more children can be reached.
049	Pati Seitz	Yamhill CASA volunteer, testifies in support of HB 2268. Explains that she has been a CASA for 5 years and has seen many acts of abuse against children. Emphasizes the need for more CASA volunteers and additional financial support.
080	Larry DeBates	Yamhill CASA volunteer, submits and presents written testimony in support of HB 2268 (EXHIBIT D). Emphasizes that CASA must have additional funds as there is not enough money to train and supervise new volunteers.
120	Rep. Piercy	Expresses her admiration of the service CASA provides. Asks for specific areas of HB 2268 that CASA supports or opposes.
124	DeBates	Responds that he thought he was testifying before the committee that had legislation responsible for increasing CASA funding (HB 2276). Asks the committee to support CASA in any capacity.
138	Rep. Taylor	Thanks the CASA workers for their important work.

155	Ronault Catalani	Marion County CASA, submits written information (EXHIBIT E) and supports the funding concepts in HB 2268. Discusses statistical data and background components of Marion County CASA.
234	Dale Nelson	Marion County CASA, testifies in support of HB 2268 by stating that dollars spent for CASA are the best "bang for the buck" in the court system. Provides the committee with an example of a case involving a child that could not speak for herself because of brain damage and maintains that her best interest was always his first concern. Emphasizes that there is no other entity that provides the kind of service that CASA provides and asks the committee for continued support.
289	Rich Martinez	Marion County CASA, testifies in support of HB 2268. States that the issue of rescuing neglected, abused, and defenseless children is immediate. Relates a story of an abandoned child that was rescued through the efforts of the state's children's programs and CASA. Believes Oregon has the funding to support CASA and asks the committee to make CASA a priority.
332	Rep. Winters	Thanks the CASA workers for their continued service and asks how many volunteers are waiting for training in Marion County.
347	Catalani	Responds that there are 16 people waiting for training. Explains that Marion County CASA has stopped advertising for volunteers because of the continued interest in the program from the community and the lack of funding to expand programs to accommodate new volunteers. States that there are two 40-hour training events per year. Reports that one-third of the children in Marion County are of color and do not have adequate ethnic or cultural representation within the CASA program.
374	Rep. Winters	Asks if volunteers only do one case at a time.
379	Catalani	Responds that most CASA volunteers have one case. States that one case is defined as a family, and some families have more than one child. Explains that there are instances that a CASA volunteer will handle more than one case.
385	Rep. Winters	Recognizes that the required time commitment of a CASA volunteer is two years and asks for the average service period of volunteers.
388	Catalani	Explains that, based on a new report, the average length of service is six years.
400	Rep. Morrisette	Asks if the House Human Resource committee will be receiving HB 2276.
406	Chair Kruse	Explains that the committee will be looking at HB 2276 at another time. HB 2276 is in Ways and Means where funding amounts will be discussed and considered.
414	Rep. Morrisette	Asks for the current CASA budget.

416	Catalani	Replies that the budget is \$446,000.
418	Rep. Morrisette	Asks for the funding amount CASA is requesting.
420	Catalani	Responds that the original request was \$4 million and HB 2276 includes \$3.3 million for CASA.
TABLE 23, B		
010	George Slawson	Marion CASA volunteer, testifies in support of HB 2268. Explains that CASA volunteers work with complex cases that move through the system slowly. States that CASA volunteers are instrumental in keeping the system moving so that children are not left in limbo with little or no resolution. Respectfully requests the committee to do what it can to support the efforts of CASA.
038	Rep. Lehman	Asks for situations that hold up or delay cases.
040	Mr. Slawson	Explains that there is often a lack of communication among many people working in different aspects of the court system and social service system. States that legal and social service personnel work multiple cases and often come up against scheduling conflicts. The CASA volunteer is focused only on the child, paying attention to any potential problems that arise before they become significant hold-ups.
057	Karen Slawson	<p>Marion CASA volunteer, testifies in support of HB 2268. Emphasizes that the system is slow and children in state care are often forgotten. Describes the role that CASA volunteers play including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring agencies, homes, and schools in the child's life. • Staying attentive to education needs, counseling needs, medical needs. • Communicating with parents and foster parents. • Keeping schedules. <p>States that CASA volunteers make children a priority in a way that no one else does.</p>
080	Rep. Piercy	Asks if a cooperative attitude and a willingness to collaborate exists in the system which involves social workers, educators, judges and attorneys.
085	Mrs. Slawson	Responds that cooperation and positive collaboration is inconsistent and cannot be counted on. States that case workers and attorneys are working with many clients at one time, creating conflicts in priorities and schedules.
094	Rep. Piercy	Asks Mr. and Mrs. Slawson how long they have been involved with CASA and what progressions have they seen in the collaborative efforts within the system.
098	Mrs. Slawson	States that they have been CASA volunteers for one year. Comments that they are now understanding how best to work with the system and that they can see

		the difference they have made in the lives of the children they have worked with for the last year.
109	Rep. Lehman	Asks at what stage in a case is a CASA worker brought in.
110	Mr. Slawson	Replies that, in theory, a CASA volunteer should be brought into a case right away, as a child is brought into custody, and at the time of the "shelter hearing." Explains that ideally a CASA would be assigned to a case in the first year; however, the average CASA worker in Marion County is brought in during the fourth year of a case.
120	Rep. Lehman	States that, presently, the CASA program appears more reactive in its function and asks if the program is expanded, would its function become more preventive.
126	Mr. Slawson	Responds affirmatively. Hopes that SB 689 and the Adoption and Safe Families Act will encourage the system to move faster and with a preventive focus.
130	Rep. Piercy	Asks about the relationship that local CASA programs have with the local Commissions on Children and Families.
140	Catalani	States that CASA is a recipient of funds from the Commission.
145	Rep. Piercy	Asks for more specifics regarding conversations and collaboration between CASA and the local commissions that focus on asset-building and creating strong, healthy communities.
150	Catalani	Replies that the Marion County Commission has been very responsive of CASA. Explains that the shortcoming of the local CASA has been the lack of a specific program director who could focus entirely on community involvement and program progression. States that the local commission has doubled the CASA budget and believes that an understanding of what CASA represents exists in the commission.
174	Mike Elwood	Advocacy Coordinator, Multnomah County CASA, testifies in support of HB 2268. Explains that CASA originated from efforts of David W. Soukup, a King County Superior Court Judge in Seattle, Washington. States that Oregon has over 1,000 CASA volunteers, 200 of those are in Multnomah County. Explains that CASA volunteers stay active in a case until a child has been placed in a safe, permanent home. In Multnomah County, CASA volunteers are assigned a case as soon as it enters the system, usually within six months. Explains that most CASA case workers have other full-time occupations and notes that the average age of volunteers is going down. Discusses the training program that volunteers must participate in and the qualities and strengths that make a good CASA including, objectivity, flexibility, and dedication. Discusses budget estimates in the amount of \$6,669,400 per biennium to more fully fund CASA in the state of Oregon. States that \$2.6 million the first year and \$2.9 million the second year would achieve the growth necessary to maximize service in the 1999-2001 biennium.

240	Rep. Winters	Comments that Multnomah County has the largest grouping of ethnic minorities in the state and asks how many CASA volunteers have a minority status.
245	Elwood	Replies that approximately 10% of the volunteers in Multnomah County have a minority status.
252	Rep. Winters	Asks for a break down of ethnic minority cases.
255	Elwood	Responds that he does not have exact figure with him but estimates that 25% of CASA cases represent an ethnic minority.
261	Rep. Winters	Asks about the recruitment process to include minorities.
264	Elwood	States that it is the goal of CASA to expand its number of minority volunteers to at least match the ratio of minority clients.
267	Rep. Close	Asks if SCF case workers are doing the same work of the CASA worker.
280	Elwood	Explains that CASA volunteers advocate from the child's viewpoint. SCF case workers are involved with multiple case loads and can't provide each child with individual attention the way a CASA volunteer can.
297	Rep. Lehman	Points out that, in his experience as a court-appointed attorney, he saw within the system competing interests and an inability on the part of social workers and attorneys to effectively advocate for children without getting locked into good and bad judgments and personal agendas.
307	Elwood	Concurs with Rep. Lehman and states that the CASA worker stays away from judgments and stays focused on the best interest of the child while trying to facilitate communication among all parties involved.
316	Rep. Winters	Comments that the CASA is also a "check and balance" for the system.
330	Rep. Lehman	Concurs with Rep. Winters and adds that attorneys are appointed to a child to represent the child from a legal standpoint yet are often unclear if their representation is in the child's best interest.
340	Tim Gray	CASA volunteer, Multnomah County, testifies in support of HB 2268. States that adequate and permanent staffing with substantive training programs are essential. Emphasizes that CASA must have stable and adequate funding to ensure quality.
369	Ed Allen	CASA volunteer, Clackamas County, submits and presents written testimony in support of HB 2268 (EXHIBIT F). States that national standards call for one paid supervisor per 35 CASA volunteers. This standard requires a large leverage of funds. Concurs with Rep. Lehman's comments regarding the focus of the

		court-appointed attorney and emphasizes that the child's viewpoint is the CASA focus.
TAPE 24, B		
015	Allen	States that agency personnel are not able to speak freely before a judge for fear of retribution from a supervisor or legal ramifications. Explains that the CASA volunteer has the time to dedicate to a case and the freedom to say what he or she considers necessary without fear of retaliation. Discusses the need to educate clients and their families on the responsibilities and objectives of CASA. States that trust levels of older children and family members rise when they realize that CASA volunteers are not employees of the "system."
065	Allen	Discusses advocates of CASA, EXHIBIT F , page 1.
110	Allen	Refers to EXHIBIT F , page 2, and discusses budget needs of CASA.
137	Rep. Winters	Asks about the number of ethnic minority volunteers in Clackamas CASA.
139	Allen	States that the Clackamas volunteer base is not very diversified; however, the county is pursuing the expansion of its ethnic base of volunteers.
150	Rep. Close	Asks about the danger of CASA becoming "part of the system" if it receives \$4 million and pursues a large expansion of programs.
155	Allen	Replies that CASA is structured to never become "part of the system." Speaks to the concern that Oregon CASA will not be able to spend \$4 million dollars within a year's time.
174	Rep. Krummel	Asks how the public finds out about CASA.
180	Allen	Discusses how a volunteer is appointed to a case after their training process is completed and all reference checks are approved. Explains that the public learns about CASA through television ads, newspaper articles, and community notices.
205	Gray	Adds that educational and medical professionals also contact CASA offices regarding the needs of children.
213	Larry Oglesby	Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association, testifies in support of HB 2268. States that one key theme of HB 2268 is "community-based services." Explains that the juvenile crime prevention partnership involves \$30 million of the governor's budget. States that there needs to be a continuum of services for children at each level of their development. Believes that the focus must now turn to children with multiple risk factors. Discusses the 1994 juvenile justice summit and the following governor's task force that resulted in SB 1(1995) creating the Oregon Youth Authority. Believes the next step is to focus on the community aspect of juvenile crime prevention and states that HB 2268 provides

		for this.
250	Oglesby	Discusses meetings involving the governor regarding the development of a mechanism that could address at-risk youth issues and juvenile crime prevention strategies which could be implemented and create results in a timely and effective manner. Refers to the executive order, No. EO 98-09, provided to committee members by staff (EXHIBIT G). Discusses various program plans centered around juvenile issues that have been created for communities at the county level. Believes that community-based strategies are effective. States that HB 2268 is a good vehicle for the implementation and continuation of community-based prevention efforts.
290	Chair Kruse	Refers to the family support teams of Marion County and asks about the number of families that will be served and the cost of serving them.
295	Oglesby	Responds that 30 families will be served at a cost of about \$600,000 over two years.
299	Chair Kruse	Asks if counties have conducted comprehensive plans and submitted portions of those plans to the governor.
304	Oglesby	States that the counties have done comprehensive planning for years through the local commissions on children and families and public safety coordinating councils. Most counties look at existing plans when creating new plans.
316	Rep. Piercy	Asks if most county plans came out of public safety coordinating councils.
322	Oglesby	Replies that plans were created from a combination of bodies.
327	Rep. Close	Asks what happens to data collected on people who are not at-risk but receive a home visit.
345	Oglesby	<p>Responds that there are two data collection efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older adolescents ñ with the Oregon Youth Authority • Healthy Start ñ and other home visiting services <p>Explains that data is not intended to be "individual specific" nor is it intended to target specific people. States that he does not have exact information regarding the correct disposition of data collected on families.</p>
375	Pam Patton	President, Coalition of Advocates for Equal Access for Girls, submits and presents written testimony in regard to HB 2268 and concerns of the gaps in community-based services for girls (EXHIBIT H).
TAPE 25, A		

005	Patton	Discusses statistics regarding at-risk girls, pages 1 and 2, EXHIBIT H .
070	Patton	Proposes that language in HB 2268 be included that speaks to community-based services accessible to girls and young women EXHIBIT H , page 2.
096	Chair Kruse	Notes that Wilma Wells of the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators has submitted written information in opposition to HB 2268 (EXHIBIT I). Closes that public hearing on HB 2268 and closes the meeting at 3:05 PM.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Diane M. Lewis, Janet L. Carlson,

Administrative Support Administrator

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EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ HB 2268, written testimony, Oregon Education Association, Laurie Wimmer, 2 pp.

B ñ HB 2268, written testimony, Multnomah County Commission on Children and Families, Muriel Goldman, 3 pp.

C- Written Information regarding Take the Time grants, Commission on Children, Families and Communities, Muriel Goldman, 31 pp.

D ñ HB 2268, written testimony, Larry DeBates, 1 p.

E ñ HB 2268, written testimony and information regarding CASA, Ronault Catalani, 3 pp.

F ñ HB 2268, written testimony, Ed Allen, 2 pp.

G ñ HB 2268, Executive order, No. EO 98-09, Staff, 5 pp.

H ñ HB 2268, written testimony and information regarding Advocates for Equal Access for Girls in Oregon, Pam Patton, 10 pp.

I ñ HB 2268, written testimony, Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, Wilma Wells, 1 p.