

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 15, 1999 Hearing Room B

1:00 p.m. Tapes 53-54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sen. Tom Hartung, Chair

Sen. Susan Castillo, Vice-Chair

Sen. Peter Courtney

Sen. Verne Duncan

Sen. Gary George

Sen. Avel Gordly

Sen. Marylin Shannon

**MEMBER EXCUSED:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jan McComb, Administrator

Karen O'Kelley, Administrative Support

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:** SB 101 Public Hearing

SB 447 Work Session

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 53, A		
004	Chair Hartung	Opens meeting at 1:05 p.m. and opens public hearing on SB 101.
<u>SB 101 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		

006	Sen. Gordly	Discusses the need to fully fund the Head Start program. States that she has been an advocate of Head Start for many years. Explains that those testifying today are experts on Head Start. States that Oregon's benchmark for Head Start is to fund 100 percent of the eligible children by the year 2004.
056	Richard Butrick	<p>President, Associated Oregon Industries (AOI). Testifies in favor of SB 101 and submits <b>(EXHIBIT A)</b>. States that Head Start needs full funding for all children eligible for pre-kindergarten programs. Explains that graduates of the Head Start program go into the first grade with a head start, even though most of them are below the federal poverty level.</p> <p>Believes that a solution would be to build fewer jail cells and give those funds to Head Start instead.</p>
143	Ron Hearndon	President, National Head Start Directors' Association. States that the majority of kids served by Head Start are in families that make under \$11,000 per year. States that there should be funding for 100 percent of the children eligible for Head Start. Hopes that committee will change current funding priorities and make the investment for low income families.
238	Sen. Duncan	Requests that Dr. Kagan be allowed to testify before the committee. States that Dr. Kagan is a big advocate of early child education in this country.
256	Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan	<p>Professor, Yale University. States that, "Head Start has been the most significant force in her professional life." States that Head Start has benefited more children and families than any other program in the U.S. Comments that full funding for Head Start is of critical importance.</p> <p>States that the country has not thought about early child care and education as a full system.</p>
324	Kagan	States that there needs to be an investment made in the following core elements: training, classrooms, regulations, and programs.
		Thanks the Head Start colleagues.
430	Sen. Shannon	Comments that she rejects the idea of funding either Head Start or the prisons as stated in the testimony from AOI. States that poor people have the ability to teach their children to be responsible. States that there are many other important programs that are vying for public dollars.
<b>TAPE 54, A</b>		
022	Hearndon	<p>Responds to Sen. Shannon's comments with the following facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of people in prison are poor.</li> <li>• The majority of people in prison read at a second or third grade level.</li> </ul>
		States that Head Start has a proven "track record" of helping children.

060	Sen. Shannon	States that the dropout rates continue to increase in spite of the fact that more money is being spent. State that she is supportive of Head Start to the level that the state can afford to fund it. Adds that there are many other programs that need to be funded.
089	Kegan	States that when young children are in high quality Head Start programs they reap gains that carry over into second or third grade.
109	Vice-Chair Castillo	States that she is a strong supporter of Head Start. Discusses the role of parents in Head Start.
121	Hearndon	Responds that parents involved with Head Start stay involved in their child's education process once the child enters a public school.
135	Sen. Duncan	States that he serves on a Head Start Board.
143	Butrick	Responds to Sen. Shannon's comment. States that he referred to prisons to suggest an example of where the funding might come from.
155	Sen. George	Asks Butrick if he is supportive of Governor Kitzhaber's proposal to raise corporate income taxes.
160	Butrick	Responds that generally, with a declining economy, he does not believe that the members of AOI would support the idea.
176	Barbara Roberts	Former Governor of Oregon. States that her late husband was a strong advocate of Head Start. Believes that Head Start does deliver academic results. States that investments need to be made early-on for kids because investments made later are much more expensive and far less successful.
224	Hearndon	Thanks Roberts for her testimony. Refers to a study which determined that all Head Start programs that were a part of the study were either "good quality or better."
265	Sen. Gordly	Introduces others who will be testifying on behalf of SB 101.
289	Lori Hart	Parent of former Head Start students, Special Projects Coordinator, Head Start. Testifies in support of SB 101. States that through Head Start, her family received many services to help them through difficult times. States that the Head Start program reaches out to the whole family, not just the child. Encourages the committee to support full funding for Head Start.
364	Irene Durbin	Parent of former Head Start student, National Representative, Head Start. States that Head Start helped to give her the emotional support she needed to raise her family. Believes that funding invested in children and families is very important.

**TAPE 53, B**

001	Valerie Thomas	Parent of former Head Start students, Teacher, Head Start. Testifies in support of SB 101. States that Head Start has given her children confidence to achieve their goals. Hopes for the continued support of Head Start.
061	Sen. Shannon	Comments that she appreciates hearing the personal experiences from the Head Start program.
072	Sen. George	Refers to an experience when he visited a Head Start program. States that he was very impressed with the level of parental involvement.
093	Donna Schnitker	Chairman Public Information Committee, Oregon Head Start Association. Testifies that Head Start needs to be funded at 100 percent. States that if the legislature is only able to fund the Head Start program at 50 percent, then 4,000 students will receive funding and 4,000 will not.
117	Annie Soto	President, Oregon Head Start Association. Hopes that SB 101 will help the legislature to focus on the priorities of young children. Encourages the committee to consider Head Start as a funding priority.
139	Vice-Chair Castillo	Thanks the individuals who testified in support of Head Start.
148	Chair Hartung	Asks Soto how the Head Start program operates in Lane County .
155	Soto	Responds that Lane County currently serves 676 families. States that they have classrooms in public schools and in modular facilities.
176	Chair Hartung	States that the Eugene 4J District is doing an excellent job with their alternative schools. Asks if there is any cooperation between the local school board and Head Start.
185	Soto	Responds that they have strong relationships with many of the school districts.
197	Chair Hartung	Asks Soto if Head Start could be a charter school and receive additional funding from the federal government.
204	Soto	Responds that she is not sure.
210	Anita McClanahan	Director, Early Childhood Programs, Department of Education. Believes that the current structure of Head Start would not allow the program to become charter schools.
228	Chair Hartung	Requests that McClanahan find out why a Head Start program could not become

		a charter school.
231	McClanahan	Responds that she will.
240	Sen. Gordly	Thanks Chair Hartung for accepting SB 101 as a committee bill.
253	Chair Hartung	Closes public hearing on SB 101 and opens work session on SB 447.
<b><u>SB 447 WORK SESSION</u></b>		
264	Chair Hartung	States that the Senate and House Education Committees will have a joint meeting on March 17 <sup>th</sup> .
282	Cindy Hunt	Legislative Counsel. Refers to the amendments included in <b>(EXHIBIT B)</b> . States that the -1 and -2 amendments are identical and basically narrow the focus of the bill to set a class size limitation for grades K-3.
303	Sen. Courtney	<b>MOTION: Moves to ADOPT SB 447-1 amendments dated 03/15/99.</b>
		<b>VOTE: 7-0</b>
321	Chair Hartung	<b>Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.</b>
325	Hunt	Explains that the -3 amendments would keep the focus of the bill on grades K-8. Adds that instead of making class size mandatory it makes it optional at the district level. States that the "waiver language" from the State Board of Education would be removed.
346	Sen. Randy Miller	Senate District 13. States that he prefers the original language in the bill.
354	Rep. Randall Edwards	House District 15. Shares Sen. Miller's concerns. Asks Sen. Courtney about the intent is of the -3 amendments.
368	Sen. Courtney	Responds that K-3 is where smaller class sizes are the most critical. Explains that it is unfortunate that this bill does not get into the grant approach, such California did, in order to fully fund the program.  States that he will not move the -3 amendments.
<b>TAPE 54, B</b>		

001	Rep. Edwards	States that ultimately there will be a Ways and Means Committee discussion about how to appropriate money for this bill.  Requests that the committee adopt the bill as amended.
017	Sen. Miller	Comments that the committee might want to adopt a new Section 2 in the -3 amendments, in addition to the -1 amendments.
027	Sen. Shannon	Asks Sen. Miller if he wants to keep Section 1 of the -3 amendments.
030	Sen. Miller	Explains that he agrees with the -1 amendments. States that, in addition, a new Section 2 could be created from the -3 amendments. States that Section 1 has the "shall language."
039	Sen. Gordly	Asks Sen. Miller and Rep. Edwards if they considered the approach used in California when they constructed this bill.
048	Rep. Edwards	Responds that they attempted to have a beginning discussion about class size. Explains that the funding piece is something that still needs to be addressed.
058	Sen. Gordly	Asks what thought has been given to "funding mechanism" for this bill.
065	Sen. Miller	Responds that, hopefully, the districts seeking the waiver will also identify the cost of meeting the class size targets. Adds that the funding will then need to be developed.
087	Sen. Courtney	States that California allocated the money up-front to address class size. States that although he will support this bill, he is frustrated that this bill has a different approach. Agrees with Rep. Edwards that the legislature needs to do something now about class size.
143	Sen. Miller	States that it would be difficult to appropriate funds. Adds that certain school districts may not agree with the class size targets.
158	Rep. Edwards	States that Governor Kitzhaber has allocated part of his budget for class size reduction.
172	Vice-Chair Castillo	States that she would support the bill if "funding were attached to it." Asks why there is a reluctance to do this.
197	Sen. Gordly	Comments that she would like to get more detailed information from Superintendent Stan Bunn. States that although she will vote in favor of SB 447 now, she may not support this bill on the Senate floor.
227	Chair Hartung	<b>MOTION: Moves SB 447 to the floor with a DO</b>

		<b>PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.</b>
238	Sen. Duncan	Asks if SB 447 has a fiscal impact.
240	Chair Hartung	States that it does not have fiscal impact because school districts can waive the requirement.
		Asks Rep. Edwards if Joanne Flint testified about the possibility of using grants.
255	Sen. Gordly	Responds that Flint testified about the research on small class size for K-3.
259	Rep. Edwards	States that Bunn has been working with Governor Kitzhaber to determine how to use funds from the budget to reduce class size. Adds that this would be a grant.
277	Ozzie Rose	Confederation Oregon School Administrators. Explains that the grant funding from the federal government would not be enough to address the kind of changes that the committee is referring to. Explains that in Governor Kitzhaber's budget, class size reduction is only one of many options.
304	Sen. George	States that Flint testified that Oregon would be able to leverage \$5 million dollars under the Federal Class Size Reduction Act.
318	Rep. Edwards	Responds that that there have been discussions about "matching funds."
332		<b>VOTE: 6-1</b> <b>AYE: 6 - Courtney, Duncan, George, Gordly, Shannon, Hartung</b> <b>NAY: 1 - Castillo</b>
355	Chair Hartung	<b>The motion CARRIES.</b> <b>SEN. MILLER will lead discussion on the floor.</b>
357	Chair Hartung	Closes the work session on SB 447 and adjourns meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Karen O'Kelley Jan McComb

Administrative Support Administrator

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

**A ñ SB 101, written testimony, Richard Butrick, 3 pp**

**B ñ SB 447, -1, -2, and -3 amendments, staff, 3 pp**