

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

April 12, 1999 Hearing Room B

8:00 AM Tapes 83 - 84

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Bill Fisher, Chair

Sen. Frank Shields, Vice-Chair

Sen. Susan Castillo

Sen. Verne Duncan

Sen. Marylin Shannon

STAFF PRESENT:

Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator

Andrew Morris, Administrative Support

MEASURES HEARD:

SJM 8 Public Hearing and Work Session

SJM 7 Public Hearing and Work Session

SB 1291 Public Hearing and Work Session

SB 765 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 83, A		
004	Chair Fisher	Calls meeting to order at 8:09 AM and opens a public hearing on SJM 8.
<u>SJM 8 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		

010	Sen. Mae Yih	Senate District 19. Testifies in support of SJM 8 (EXHIBIT A). Explains Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), more commonly known Lou Gehrig's Disease. States that 30,000 Americans are affected, with 5,000 new cases per year. Discusses the affects of the disease, and adds that the average life span of an ALS victim is two to five years.
055	Bob Monson	Teacher, West Albany High School. Presents testimony on behalf of Mike Cunningham, ALS victim (EXHIBIT B). States there is no available treatment or cure for ALS. Reiterates that the life span after diagnosis is 2 to 5 years. Notes the lack of research funding.
114	Monson	Comments on the need for increased awareness.
128	Chair Fisher	Asks if Sen. Yih would like to carry the bill.
134	Sen. Yih	Responds affirmatively.
143	Pat Spoon	Mother of Cunningham. Testifies in support of SJM 8 (EXHIBIT C). States that ALS usually strikes middle-aged people, but the average age for diagnosis is becoming younger. States that the cause of ALS is unknown.
170	Sen. Castillo	Questions the high rates of ALS in agricultural areas.
175	Spoon	Responds research is being conducted to determine the factors that cause ALS.
180	Sen. Shannon	Asks if the research is conclusive.
188	Spoon	Responds no.
200	David Kale	Citizen, states that five people who played football at Oregon State University (OSU) have been diagnosed with ALS.
228	Sen. Shields	Asks if genetics and family histories are contributing factors in ALS.
230	Kale	Responds no.
245	Chair Fisher	States he also knows an OSU graduate who suffered from ALS.
265	Kale	States there is a high correlation between spinal cord trauma and ALS.
306	Sen. Duncan	States support for continued research.

315	Chair Fisher	Closes public hearing on SJM 8 and opens work session on SJM 8.
<u>SJM 8 WORK SESSION</u>		
321	Sen. Duncan	MOTION: Moves SJM 8 be sent to the floor with a BE ADOPTED recommendation.
		VOTE: 5-0 AYE: 5 - Castillo, Duncan, Shannon, Shields, Fisher
	Chair Fisher	The motion CARRIES. SEN. YIH will lead discussion on the floor.
337	Chair Fisher	Closes work session on SJM 8 and opens public hearing on SJM 7.
<u>SJM 7 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
360	Sen. Shields	Senate District 9. Presents testimony in support of SJM 7 (EXHIBIT D). Offers statistics concerning long term care insurance. States the current system promotes poverty among elderly people because they need to transfer or deplete their assets order to be Medicare/Medicaid eligible.
430	Sen. Shields	Offers suggestions to promote the purchase of long term care insurance. States the importance of that public education.
TAPE 84, A		
000	Sen. Shields	States that HB 2080 is currently in the House Revenue Committee. Notes there is currently a bill in Congress promoting long term care insurance.
043	Chair Fisher	Questions the inheritance tax.
054	Sen. Shields	States that was not discussed.
068	Sen. Shannon	States that her parents have saved their money so they would not be a burden to society. States that it is wrong to give away assets and live off of the government.

080	Sen. Shields	Agrees with Sen. Shannon. Explains long term care insurance to the committee. States only three percent of Americans buy long term care insurance. States the memorial asks Congress to remove disincentives in acquiring long term care insurance.
130	Sen. Shields	Continues discussion on Medicare/Medicaid savings, and the involvement of private insurance companies.
154	Peggy Anet	Representing the Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA). Testifies in support of SJM 7. States that Congress is looking at Medicaid and Medicare issues. Provides long term care insurance premium figures.
204	Gwen Dayton	Representing Oregon Health Care Association (OHCA)CA . Testifies in support of SJM 7. States that long term care is going to have an impact as the population ages. States that Congress needs to repeal the 1993 act stating that states must recover Medicaid costs through a person's estate.
244	Sen. Shields	Asks how the programs work in states where laws were adopted before 1993.
250	Dayton	Responds with explanation of long term care partnership programs in New York and California.
282	Sen. Shields	Asks if the states with incentives i.e. California have had a significant savings.
294	Anet	Responds she is unsure. Comments on the costs of long term care.
331	Chair Fisher	Asks about the percentage of people with life insurance.
337	Anet	Responds she is unsure.
329	Chair Fisher	States that the issue should be pursued by insurance companies. Relates personal story. States that private enterprise should be encouraged to provide long term care insurance.
372	Anet	States that HIAA is pursuing long term care insurance and the objective is to provide people with an incentive to purchase the insurance.
390	Dayton	States SJM 7 is an incentive for people to purchase long term care insurance.
408	Chair Fisher	States potential conflict of interest. Closes public hearing on SJM 7 and opens a work session on SJM 7.
<u>SJM 7 WORK SESSION</u>		

427	Sen. Duncan	MOTION: Moves SJM 7 be sent to the floor with a BE ADOPTED recommendation.
443	Sen. Shannon	Asks why Congress passed the current law.
451	Sen. Shields	Responds that Congress was trying to save money for the taxpayers.
TAPE 83, B		
000	Chair Fisher	Clarifies current laws for Sen. Shannon.
016	Sen. Shields	States that Congress has not comprehended the complete issue of long term care insurance.
047		VOTE: 5-0 AYE: 5 - Castillo, Duncan, Shannon, Shields, Fisher
	Chair Fisher	The motion CARRIES. SEN. SHIELDS will lead discussion on the floor.
048	Chair Fisher	Closes work session on SJM 7 and opens public hearing on SB 1291.
<u>SB 1291 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
046	Rocky King	Administrator, Insurance Pool Governing Board. Testifies on SB 1291. Explains the bill to the committee. States the bill provides technical adjustments to the Family Health Insurance Assistance Program (FHIAP). Indicates the bill allows the board to determine a benefit level. Notes the bill will allow federal funds to be applied towards deductibles and other expenses.
109	Sen. Castillo	Asks if the bill is contingent on federal money that will be received next October.
112	King	Responds affirmatively.
120	Sen. Castillo	Asks if the co-pays and deductibles include children.
125	King	Responds that that is in federal law.

135	Chair Fisher	Closes public hearing on SB 1291 and opens a work session on SB 1291.
<u>SB 1291 WORK SESSION</u>		
139	Sen. Shields	MOTION: Moves SB 1291 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
		VOTE: 5-0 AYE: 5 - Castillo, Duncan, Shannon, Shields, Fisher
	Chair Fisher	The motion CARRIES. SEN. DUNCAN will lead discussion on the floor.
149	Chair Fisher	Closes work session on SB 1291 and opens public hearing on SB 765.
<u>SB 765 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
154	Barbara Ash	Parent, Testifies in support of SB 765. Explains autism to the committee and its impact. Comments that autism is treatable, and that people with autism usually have normal to above normal intelligence.
210	B. Ash	States that research is being done to see if toxins cause autism.
226	Sen. Castillo	Questions Ashis concern with autism.
230	B. Ash	Responds that she has an autistic child. Relates a personal experience regarding her son. Gives a case history of her son.
300	B. Ash	States that autistic children need one-on-one teaching. States that their son was sent to Japan to receive an education. Comments on the successes of her son.
370	B. Ash	Reads a letter from a doctor regarding her son.
382	Sen. Shannon	Questions the bill and asks if there is an existing focus on autism.
385	B. Ash	Responds that school districts mainstream autistic children.

405	Stan Ash	Parent. States there is not a residential program in Oregon that deals with autism. Notes this bill would create a task force to review the feasibility of an autistic school.
443	Sen. Shannon	Commends the Ashís for their work.
447	Sen. Duncan	Commends the Ashís for their work.
TAPE 84, B		
000	S. Ash	Comments on the importance of a task force.
010	Chair Fisher	States there will be a task force on mental health parity and would like to see if the autism can be worked into that. States he will talk with leadership regarding the forming of a task force.
043	Katharine Weit	Representing the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Council. Testifies in support of SB 765. Gives background of SB 765. States the council would support an interim task force. Adds that caseworkers are overloaded, and that it is difficult to receive residential services for autistic children.
097	Weit	States that her son is also autistic and is involved in a residential treatment program. Points out that public education is needed. States that families and schools need to work together.
133	Sen. Castillo	States that autism affects the whole state.
151	Sonya Fisher	Legislative Assistant to Sen. Shields, parent of autistic child. States that it is essential to look at all aspects of care regarding autism. States support for a task force.
191	Chair Fisher	Notes support for an emergency clause in the bill.
199	Weit	Offers to work together with the parties involved to develop amendments to SB 765.
211	Ed Hughes	Comments in support of SB 765.
224	Chair Fisher	Closes public hearing on SB 765 and adjourns the meeting at 9:55AM.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Andrew Morris, Sandy Thiele-Cirka,
Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ SJM 8, Written testimony, Sen. Mae Yih, 1 p

B ñ SJM 8, Written testimony from Mike Cunningham, Bob Monson, 3 pp

C ñ SJM 8, Written testimony, Parent, Pat Spoon, 1 p

D ñ SJM 7, Written testimony, Sen. Frank Shields, 1 p