

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

March 27, 1997 Hearing Room D

1:00PM Tapes 52 - 54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rep. Liz VanLeeuwen, Chair

Rep. Kitty Piercy, Vice-Chair

Rep. Bob Jenson

Rep. Jeff Kruse

Rep. Dennis Luke

Rep. Kurt Schrader

Rep. Mark Simmons

**MEMBER EXCUSED:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Janet Carlson, Administrator

Berri Sellers, Administrative Support

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:**

HB 3060 Public Hearing

HB 2167 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 51, A		
004	Chair VanLeeuwen	Chair calls meeting to order at 3:08. Opens public hearing on HB 3060 and HB 2167. Asks Rep. Schrader to review the work group proposals.

**HB 3060**  
**PUBLIC**  
**HEARING**

018	Rep. Schrader	This group came together on two occasions. The issues that we outlined were early childhood intervention: who's actually doing it? Is it actually being done, and the perceptions of the different people. Discusses the fact that the early intervention councils are virtually unknown to the local commissions on children and families. As a result it seemed a good idea to make sure everyone is talking to one another. It became apparent that there are a number of other early childhood services that are available besides the ones listed in the bill.
045		We talked about options. We drafted three options, which don't represent the work group's "buy-in," to these options. The first option is to do nothing. Provides handout (EXHIBIT A).
070		Option 3 is to change the word "oversee" to "convene." Talking about coordination of activities rather than a mandate. Designating a group to be the lead local agency. It would be the local commissions on children and families, which would mean the commissions would have to change their membership in statute. Modifies special education statute that references children with disabilities. Indicates that the commissions would be responsible for convening the early childhood special education programs for the State of Oregon. Would eliminate irrelevant portions of chapter 343.
110	Rep. Schrader	Eliminate separate programs at least in name and roll their missions into the same unit. Draft new statute to replace the old title 30. This is a bold option and there is justifiable concern that this might be too soon.
137		Option 2 is intermediate change. It would change "oversee" to "convene." Option 2 recognizes that we have a local commission on children and families as well as special education and that the two groups should be sharing policy information. Goal would be in the new statute that these two groups should be talking to one another, at least when they are discussing policy changes.
165		The goal is to ensure that they are communicating and sharing experiences, and working with each other to provide the best outcomes.
179	Chair VanLeeuwen	Discusses the amendments that are before the committee.
191	Rep. Schrader	Believes that the amendments are in line with what the work group had decided upon.
197	Rep. Luke	Is confused by the terminology of the proposals. What determines policy change?
203	Rep. Schrader	

		That part should probably be changed. Commissions and integrated councils are going to be able to make those policy decisions independently, but they have to share the information.
217	Rep. Luke	Is Rep. Schrader's intention that policy decisions will not be made unless the two groups are together?
223	Rep. Schrader	Sees the agencies currently acting separately, having branches that do and do not relate to one another.
230	Chair VanLeeuwen	Asks representative from Polk County if there is already something like this in place.
238	Vickie Fleming	Staff at the Willamette Education Service District. Yes, in their planning they have been trying to address the needs of many populations. We have been able to merge these two programs to build more preschools and recognize the needs of special education students.
256	Rep. Luke	How long did you not meet together?
261	Fleming	In about 1988 we realized that it would be constructive for them to meet together.
270	Vice-Chair Piercy	Do you have all the programs that are mentioned here?
276	Rep. Luke	All of the programs are included as he reads the amendments.
293	Vice-Chair Piercy	Who convenes the meetings?
299	Fleming	Convened by an elected chair and is staffed by the local commissions on children and families. Addresses Vice-Chair Piercy's concern about wanting to address every program in every county.
313	Rep. Kruse	Comments that Option 2 seems like they are moving everything from the basement to the attic. Option 3 is certainly a bold new direction. Are we already assuming Option 2, or is Option 3 even on the table for discussion?
334	Janet Carlson	Committee Administrator. Suggests words to clarify line nine and line twelve in order to better reflect the goals of the work group.
373	Dell Ford	Head Start Collaboration project. Only involved in first work group. Believes that a better avenue for this program would be the Governor's Task Force on Readiness to Learn. Provides written testimony (EXHIBIT C).
402	Jane Mulholland	Staff at the Department of Education's Early Childhood Special Education Project. Was a member of the work group.
423	Marion Smith	State Commission on Children and Families. Would like the groups to be named in a planning document so that it is clear who is included, but less subject to revisions as state and federal programs come and go.
TAPE 52,A		
040	Ford	

		Her understanding is that the commissions were set up for comprehensive planning for children 0-18. Most of the commissions also have early childhood planning.
054		Difficult to mandate programs being at the table. Programs are built on trust in order to have long term plans. Speaking in opposition to the bill. Why do we need this bill? What will it do that we can't do now with the local commissions on children and families?
083		Sees it as a redundant bill to HB 2004.
086	Vice-Chair Piercy	Does each county have the early childhood component?
092	Ford	Each plan has to address the 0-18 age group.
103	Mulholland	Clarifies that early intervention program is first, an education program. Emphasizes that within the amendment, the issue of education is not mentioned. Their programs are prescribed by federal law as part of the educational services. Their programs work with school districts.
143		Districts are responsible for providing transportation services and finding the children for these services.
151	Chair VanLeeuwen	Have you not seen Great Start and Healthy Start in Option 3?
160	Mulholland	Sees where it is included.
171		Speaks in opposition to HB 3060 and to the amendment. These programs are already in place.
181	Wilma Wells	Represents Oregon School Administrators. Speaks in opposition to HB 3060. You cannot mandate people to cooperate with one another.
195		Early intervention and early childhood programs are not parent programs. The programs are for the disabled. They do work with parents of disabled children, but that is out of necessity and does not make it a parent program.
217		Thinks that the Committee should let people decide what is best for their own children.
223	Rep. Luke	Don't most of these programs deal with federal funding?
227	Ford	Many of them do, some are health programs, most get money from federal funds.
241	Betty Freauf	Speaking on behalf of Connie Lewis. Provides written materials and written testimony (EXHIBIT D).
372		Continues testimony about reading list provided by the Dept. of Education that she believes is unacceptable and harmful for children. Provides written testimony (EXHIBIT E).
456		Continues testimony about the lack of respect legislators have for citizens. Provides an overview of how she sees that we have caused

		problems for our society. These include a lack of Christianity and allowing feminists to determine what is right and wrong.
<b>TAPE 51,B</b>		
071	Freauf	Concerned because they are funding early childhood programs that are detrimental to our children.
082	Rep. Luke	Explains his leaving the hearing room during the Deschutes County child abuse case discussion last meeting <i>was</i> anger management.
096	Chair VanLeeuwen	Explains why she is in the legislature and her goals as chair of this committee. Describes the problems we currently have in this society as driving the need for social services.
119	Freauf	Discusses her testimony during the last hearing. Explains that she felt humiliated by the committee.
140	Jim Greene	Represents the Oregon School Boards Association. Agrees with the testimony against HB 3060. Believes that these programs are already working together.
152		Explains that there is already a requirement in statute, especially for children ages 0-5 whose parents discover that they have disabilities and need help.
166		Concerned about amendments, especially Option 3. Money for the compensatory education projects flow from the Department of Education and must be used for these programs. They see this as a layer on top of what they are currently doing.
214	Vice-Chair Piercy	Comments that we want to ensure that we have clear integration and that programs are working together as well as possible.
222	Greene	Would be happy to provide information about programs that are currently working in conjunction with one another.
255	Donna Clark	Oregon Health Division. Explains what type of programs that they offer. Provides written testimony (EXHIBIT F).
279		Describes the CaCoon program that they offer, which is providing help to children who have special health care needs.
299		Describes their immunization program and their registry. Explains the types of coordination that they do and what types of successes that they have had.
334		Tells the committee that she thinks we should support each other and try and get results. They speak in opposition to HB 3060 and in opposition to Options 2 and 3.
351	Vice-Chair Piercy	Explains that Rep. Schrader was trying to get at where the overlap might be and does she see any overlap?
369	Clark	Yes, they have found overlaps before and have already tried to ensure they are coordinating with one another.
396	Kathryn Weit	Staff to the Commission on Disabilities. In an effort to build a continuum of services, we have to make sure that we are not overwhelming families.

413		Opposes HB 3060 as a solution to this issue. Primary objective is to involve families.
433		One of her recommendations would be to look at how the counties vary. Maybe a report should come back to the committee and see how each county is operating. They have had meetings in which they have explored these issues at the county level.
<b>TAPE 53,B</b>		
061	Chair VanLeeuwen	Would like to see the notes from that meeting.
067	Weit	Will do what she can to pull these people together.
069	Chair VanLeeuwen	Identifies group that has just joined the committee in the hearing room as a group from the Caribbean who have come to the United States to participate in the Mt. Hood Community College program for the food sciences department.
085	Rep. Luke	Where are you at on the bill?
087	Weit	Opposed to the bill in its current form. Believes that we are already doing what is contained in this bill.
099	Rep. Kruse	Why doesn't she want Option 3 since this would give local folks the opportunity to decide for themselves?
111	Weit	Would recommend that we look at what is happening in the local counties before we mandate them.
120	Rep. Kruse	How do you see a different model than a local commission compiling their own standards?
129	Weit	Does not think it is broken in all communities.
144	Chair VanLeeuwen	Assigns the committee to read ORS 417.705-417.790. Closes public hearing on HB 3060. Opens public hearing on HB 2167.
<b><u>HB 2167</u></b> <b><u>PUBLIC</u></b> <b><u>HEARING</u></b>		
184	Carlson	Provides brief explanation of HB 2167.
215	Georgena Carrow	Director of the Volunteer Program at the Department of Human Resources. Discusses the successes of the Volunteer Program. Provides written testimony (EXHIBIT G).
234		Believes that line six should be changed from how Legislative Counsel drafted the bill.
247		Explains that Gary Weeks believes that this program is so important that he wants it to appear in statute. Explains how some of their budget comes from donations. It would be a shift of dollars within the agency.
265		Explains that any volunteer in the program falls under the protection of the state. This is part two of the bill and they are very concerned that it be included to protect volunteers.
281	Rep. Kruse	Aren't these volunteers covered currently?

287	Carrow	Yes, but there has been concern that since they are not outlined in statute that they are not protected as well as they should be.
296	Rep. Jenson	Comments that this is especially important when these volunteers are working outside of state agencies.
311	Carrow	It is in the statute that donations received are not part of the general fund but part of a separate account. In this past year, the Volunteer Program has received over one million dollars in donations which was sent back to communities to assist in various activities. Language in the bill was not what they intended, so they have a proposal that is closer to their intention.
350	Vicki Pearse	Local manager of the Department of Human Resources Volunteer Program. Explains the work that they do in the Volunteer Program and their work with local communities. Provides written testimony (EXHIBIT H).
384	Dawn LaBarre	Program Manager for the Volunteer Program. Describes story of the lunch buddy program in Lane County and how it has helped children in the program. Provides written testimony (EXHIBIT I).
TAPE 54,A		
029	Dan Hartman	State Risk Management. Explains what is critical within this bill. It must protect volunteers from being a personnel liability. Provides written testimony (EXHIBIT J).
045	Chair VanLeeuwen	Adjourns meeting at 3:00 pm

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Berri Sellers, Janet Carlson,

Administrative Support Administrator

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

A - HB 3060, written materials, staff, 3pp.

B - HB 3060, written materials, staff, 1pg.

C - HB 3060, written testimony, Dell Ford, 5pp.

D - HB 3060, written materials, Betty Freauf, 15p.

E - HB 3060, written materials, Betty Freauf, 18pp.

F - HB 3060, written testimony, Donna Clark, 4pp.

G - HB 2167, written testimony, Georgena Carrow, 3pp.

H - HB 2167, written testimony, Vicki Pearse, 2pp.

**I - HB 2167, written testimony, Dan Hartman, 2pp.**