

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Hearing Room Tapes - 28

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. John Meek, Chair Rep. Judith Uherbelau, Vice-Chair Rep. Bill Fisher Rep. Patti Milne Rep. Kitty Piercy Rep. Lynn Snodgrass

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. George Eighmey

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Mann, Committee Administrator Pamela Berger, Committee Assistant

MEASURES HEARD: HB 2029 - Public Hearing HB 2604 - Public Hearing

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation mark report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE , A

010 CHAIR MEEK: Calls the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

Staff submits a newspaper article about six children who were removed from

their home (EXHIBIT A) and a Newsweek article about a child advocate who also is the author of a book about the child welfare system (EXHIBIT

BETTY UCHYTIL, CHILDRENS SERVICES DIVISION (CSD): Responds to article (Exhibit A) -does not know specifics of the case -in response to Snodgrass

SNODGRASS: Appalled by how the removal occurred

FISHER: Feels that no consideration was shown

PIERCY: Will hold judgment since not all the details are known

UHERBELAU: Does CSD has procedures in place to investigate these incidences?

UCHYTIL: Yes, those sensitive cases, such as this one, are reviewed; elaborates -agrees with Piercy that the media sometimes has only a por

132 UHERBELAU: Concerned that the children were removed from the school in front of their peers who probably wouldn't understand what w

UCHYTIL: Shares same concerns; need to minimize trauma

MILNE: Have spoken to this family -would like to have information available to me on this case -the mother called me Friday night

186 CHAIR MEEK: Safety of the child -procedure is appalling to the public -would like to have you respond to us at Thursday's hearing; t

UCHYTIL: Feels that there was just cause in taking the action that was taken

240 FISHER: Comments

HB 2029 - Public Hearing

Staff submits testimony in opposition to HB 2029 from CSD (EXHIBIT C) testimony from Linda Vollman, PLAN Adoption, and Catherine Dexter, De
article about HB 2029 (EXHIBIT E)

250 MANN: Submits and explains HB 2029-1 proposed amendments (EXHIBIT B)

TAPE 27, SIDE A

070 -in response to Uherbelau, clarifies "preempt"

MILNE: Who will determine if it is a viable or acceptable plan?

MANN: There is a procedure that Mark Hill can expand on

098 MARK HILL, FORMER CSD WORKER: Testifies on HB 2029 -addresses proposed amendments (Exhibit B) -family group conferences 120 -exp

child 242 -in response to Piercy, adoptive parents are also included in this concept -in response to Meek, intervention occurs before

TAPE 26, SIDE B

-in response to Piercy, discusses extended family members as a resource -these are major events for families, such as birth, death, etc. -st

members 125 -in response to Fisher, discusses how this model differs from our current system -family discussions are privileged informat

there is a problem -in response to Meek, talks about when the agency disagrees with decisions made by the family, which happens in less than

366 JENNIFER BALL, CONKLING, FISKUM & McCORMICK: Submits and reads written testimony on HB 2029 (EXHIBIT G)

TAPE 27, SIDE B

NANCY MILLER, CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD: Testifies on HB 2029 -excited about the direction that the committee is going on this issue -also conce

181 TIMOTHY TRAVIS, JUVENILE RIGHTS COALITION: Testifies on HB 2029 -presents suggested language change for proposed amendments (Exhibi

329 MILLER: Thinks that CSD is currently moving towards family decision making

PIERCY: Suggested language change

355 SNODGRASS: Does CSD have a definition of "dangerous"

CHAIR MEEK: That will be addressed in another bill

366 DAVID WINTERS, CITIZEN: Submits and reads written testimony on HB 2029 (EXHIBIT H) -if this model that you have been describing, wa
TAPE 28, SIDE A

010 CLAUDE DERR, GRANDPARENT: Testifies on HB 2029 -we could not attend the family unity meeting -making every effort to work with the
rights to be with our grandchildren -the facts have been distorted by the caseworkers

040 DOROTHY MEAD, GRANDPARENT: Testifies on HB 2029 -CSD has not made any attempt to get the family together -the allegations against
abuse the law

082 MILNE: I have drafted legislation that addresses the accountability of CSD and its workers

085 WINTERS: Talks about CSD caseworkers; need for the truth to come out

CHAIR MEEK: Closes public hearing on HB 2029 -discusses draft version of letter to be sent to CSD regarding removal of children from the ho
PIERCY: Should ask CSD what they need from us

CHAIR MEEK: I meet with CSD on a regular basis -discusses administrative rule -need to take a strong look at the public policy of how we are
Members further discuss article (See: Exhibit A)

HB 2604 - Public Hearing

188 MANN: Submits and explains a preliminary staff measure summary on HB 2604 (EXHIBIT I), which was introduced at the request of Rep.

FISHER: Believe it is important to provide CSD with what they need in order to make proper judgment

225 BETTY UCHYTIL, CSD: Submits and reads written testimony on HB 2604 (EXHIBIT J) -supports concept -the implementation of SB 1078 lea
legislative issues involved with HB 2604 -am working with the AG's office to identify conflicts

258 WINTERS: Testifies on HB 2604 -thought that CSD already had this power; ellaborates -discusses ADA

CHAIR MEEK: Need to narrow this piece of legislation to address those living with and in contact with the child -discusses future meetings

FISHER: Will the ADA issue be addressed?

CHAIR MEEK: Have talked to staff about this -discusses 2/23 meeting 340-adjourns meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Submitted by, Reviewed by,

Pamela Berger Tom Mann Committee Assistant Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY:

A - CSD - newspaper article - staff - 1 p B - HB 2029 - -1 proposed amendments - staff - 5 pp C - HB 2029 - testimony from Uchytel, CSD -
- staff - 5 pp E - HB 2029 - article - staff - 1 p F - HB 2029 - Newsweek article - staff - 1 p G - HB 2029 - testimony - Ball - 3 pp H - HB