

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES & EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

April 4, 1995 Hearing Room 343
4:00 p.m. Tapes 20-23

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Patti Milne, Chair
Rep. Terry Thompson, Vice-Chair
Rep. Mike Lehman
Rep. John Meek
Rep. Frank Shields
Rep. Lynn Snodgrass
Rep. Dennis Luke, ex-officio

VISITING MEMBER:

Rep. Charles Starr

STAFF PRESENT:

Jan McComb, Committee Administrator
Pamela Berger, Committee Assistant

MEASURE HEARD:

HB 2892 - Public Hearing

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

TAPE , SIDE A

CHAIR MILNE: Calls the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

HB 2892 - Public Hearing

CHAIR MILNE: Submits written testimony (EXHIBIT A)

Submitted for the record, testimony from Robert Everhart (EXHIBIT B)

006 RICHARD MEINHART, CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL CHANGE: Testifies in favor of
 HB 2892
 -describes charter school strategy
 -power of local initiatives
 -roadblocks in current system
034 -incentive and reward systems
 -voluntary program
 -new control
 -performance contract

- trade regulations and rules for contract charter
- accountability
- 110 -empower local community and boards
- basic minimum perimeters in charters
- charter schools are not designed to compete with public schools but to offer alternatives
- suggests that charters include who they are targeting
- non-discriminating open enrollment
- 150 -funding
- sponsorship
- history of charter schools
- 270 -problems that other states have had with charter schools

TAPE 21, SIDE A

- 002 -measurement issues
- suggests doing a market research on parent satisfaction of current system
- disincentives of sponsorship
- 050 -submits information on charter schools from the Morrison Institute (EXHIBIT C)

098 DON SHORE, OREGON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (OEA): Testifies in opposition to HB 2892

- submits and OEA statement on charter schools (EXHIBIT D)
- will provide written testimony at a later date
- bill does not provide standards
- sponsorship
- structure
- funding
- feels that charter schools should meet some standard above public school level
- accountability
- charter schools would be exempt from the legal standards that apply to public schools
- would public records and meeting laws apply?
- admission standards
- 240 -standards for professional staff
- protection for employees
- collective bargaining rights
- to create charter schools we must make sure that their operation is consistent with our commitment to free and universal public education with equality of opportunity for all; we believe that HB 2892 fails to provide that assurance

293 DR. JACK BIERWIRTH, PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Testifies in opposition to HB 2892

- there should be three essential elements to a public school system: 1) performance standards that apply across the board and that objective, 2) a system of assessing whether students are meeting those standards or not, and 3) an accountability system that rewards good performance and penalizes poor performance
-
- thinks that Oregon's system lacks in all three areas as well as the vast majority of systems in the United States
- importance of having performance standards, a system of assess the standards, and accountability system
- have been involved in alternative schools early in my career
- believe that there should be options and choice
- if too many state regulations and rules are the problem, then deal with

those rules and regulations; which often is the rationale for charter schools

- I recognize the effort to make admission to charter schools non-discriminatory; not sure if it will work out that way in practice
- policy in Portland schools that encourages support of alternative programs; lists criteria

TAPE 20, SIDE B

- in response to Shields, discusses funding
- in response to Thompson, this could lead to a two class society but bigger

concern is that we are going to break into groups and stay only with those that we are comfortable with

080 -in response to Snodgrass, in a sense we used to have charter schools for handicapped kids; need to be careful

- alternatives offered to small slices of students in trying to get kids back into the mainstream

135 SHORE: Recently read information in a handicap journal that stated that a concern of parents of handicapped children at charter schools feel that they lose the impact of inclusion

BIERWIRTH: In response to Milne, discusses admission policies for target populations in alternative Portland school programs

160 -these magnet programs would not have to do anything different to become

a charter school but am concerned of what they could do and that would be to become exclusive

220 JONATHAN HILL, LAKE EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT: Testifies in favor of

HB 2892

- shares experience in closing down special education school sites
- have done some research on charter schools; shares views
- pre Measure 5 status
- the old system where there is money on one side and policy on the other created some good tension; that balance no longer exists

300 -that tension stimulates new ideas; which creating charter schools would

do

- the current waiver process is basically a blank piece of paper
- charter schools would create a safeguard
- HB 2892 lays out a process for creating charter schools; it is an opportunity not a directive
- would like to look at alternative education in my county

400 REP. LIZ VANLUEEWEN, DISTRICT 37: Testifies in support of HB 2892

- interested and supportive in the charter school concept

TAPE 21, SIDE B

020 NINA WOOSTER: Submits and reads written testimony in support of HB 2892

(EXHIBIT F)

- provides education alternatives
- provides accountability
- provides real incentives
- hard to advocate for your child within current system
- believes in public education
- believes that every child is entitled to appropriate education

-can no longer support current system because it sacrifices certain groups for the benefit of others
-need real alternative
-talks about personal experience with her talented and gifted son
-will begin home schooling my son because no other option is available

100 HENRI SCHAUFFLER, PARENT: Testifies in favor of HB 2892

-personal background
-reasons that we should enact charter legislation is because it would give a chance to try new and creative ways to cost effectively educate children
-responds to opponents of the bill
157 -suggests trying several reform plans; current one is unclear as is charter school proposal
-the real issue for having charter schools is reducing costs and improving educational quality

-need to address segmenting of our society but should not hold back on charter schools because of this concern

-accountability; clear uniform standards
-why hamper needs of the average students to offer services to the non-average student; offers suggestions

260 -in response to Lehman, describes accountability to sponsor; uniform management system

-in response to Lehman, discusses reasonable requirements and standards

-gives example of his children, one in private others in public - concerned

how the one in private school will do upon entering public schools

320 PAT JONES: Testifies in support of HB 2892

-tells experiences of raising children

-location changes made by family in order to meet educational needs of our children

-also sought learning communities that were accountable for their standards

-parents as equal partners

-am a teacher

TAPE 22, SIDE A

-current system doesn't allow teachers to offer their very best

-accountability and performance

-system gets into the middle - it decides which kids work with which teachers for how long

-current system does not allow its participants no choices

-this legislation allows choice for those who are ready to move ahead

065 -in response to Thompson, discusses value of teacher education

090 JAN FORTUNE: Testifies in support of HB 2892

-background

-involved in complaint with school district

-current system does not have a means of accountability

-no choice if we are not happy with current system unless you are rich and can afford private school

-home schooling is only other option

160 DIANE INSKEEP: Testifies in support of HB 2892

-parent of TAG student, disabled student, and average student

-background

-only alternative programs offered in our district are for children with problems

-credits are not available for children under 9th grade

-would like to be seen as a consumer

-perhaps charter schools would offer alternatives

- parent partnerships
- children that don't fit into the boxes
- tuition
- flexibility with basic school support money
- suggests making changes to the charter school proposal rather than not doing it at all-access to resources

CHAIR MILNE: Goal is to offer flexibility to meet needs of all students

245 TONI STEWART: Testifies in favor of HB 2892

- this bill offers options
- bill offers the possibility that parents can be partners
- my district offers few options
- input can be ignored; changes in my district don't come from input
- need for flexibility for the teachers
- parent of a TAG child; home schooled her for one year
- planned course statement does not offer flexibility

INSKEEP: Might be helpful to look at standards in the home schooling law and the standards in the public school law

360 CARL ROTH, OREGON OUTREACH: Testifies in support of HB 2892

- our schools offers the ability to be more flexible
- satellite schools
- in response to Milne, discusses how dropouts re-enter system

TAPE 23, SIDE A

Submitted for the record testimony from R. Gandy (EXHIBIT E)

022 CHAIR MILNE: Adjourns meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Reviewed by,

Pamela Berger

Jan McComb

EXHIBIT LOG:

- A - HB 2892 - Testimony -Milne - 2 pp
- B - HB 2892 - Testimony from Everhart - Staff - 2 pp
- C - HB 2892 - Institute study - Meinhart - 1 p
- D - HB 2892 - OEA Statement - Shore - 1 p
- E - HB 2892 - Testimony from Gandy - Staff - 16 pp
- F - HB 2892 - Testimony -Wooster - 4 pp