

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES & EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

April 6, 1995 Hearing Room
4:00 p.m. Tapes 27 - 31

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. John Meek
Rep. Lynn Snodgrass

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 4:12 p.m.

015 REP. GEORGE EIGHMEY, DISTRICT 14: Submits and reads written testimony on HB 2892 (EXHIBIT A)

 -if properly established, could be constructive and consistent with other public school reform efforts such as those in HB 3565

 -submits and explains proposed amendments (EXHIBIT B)

170 DAVID GORE, THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL: Submits and reads written testimony on HB 2892 (EXHIBIT C)

 -am interested in starting a charter school in Corvallis

 -leverage of parental support

 -not all students learn in the same fashion, and not all parents want the

same education for their children

-suggests that preserving the educational status quo should be low on our list of priorities

225 LESLIE CRISP, WILLAMETTE VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL: Testifies on HB 2892

-concept lends itself to a learning based environment

-submits brochure about school (EXHIBIT D)

-four part curriculum

-important to retain autonomy and be able to function as stated in our charter

-we would like to create our own environment

-want our school to a resource in our community

280 JIM SEAGRAVES: Testifies on HB 2892

-background

-bill as written provides transportation networks (section 6)

-ESD or school board could set up network

361 SISTER JEANITA RICHTER, COBB ST. CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER: Submits and reads written testimony in support of HB 2892 (EXHIBIT E)-in response to Thompson, addresses what would happen to children not accepted by charter schools

-I would open it to everybody

-I would not have a school that only would allow the gifted children

-would not want an elitist school

-in response to Shields, talks about charter schools not being in competition with public schools

TAPE 28, SIDE A

040 JACQUELINE PRATT: Submits and reads written testimony on HB 2892 (EXHIBIT F)

-the gifted children are not getting the challenging education they require

-parental and family involvement are required at Phoenix School

140 PATRICK STONE, TUCKER-MAXON ORAL SCHOOL: Submits and reads written testimony on HB 2892 (EXHIBIT G)

-in response to Shields, talks about costs to educate "average" students compared to ones with special needs

-we work with the deafest children in the state

-there are many parents who feel strongly about supporting public education

whose children are doing well in public education and will remain there

-don't see huge numbers wanting to go into charter schools

235 MIKE BROTT: Testifies on HB 2892

-the community of McMinnville has made a commitment towards education

-public education must take advantage of available options, which charter schools would offer

271 RUSSELL PLAEGER, PORTLAND CITIZENS FOR OREGON SCHOOLS: Submits and reads written testimony on HB 2892 (EXHIBIT H)

-do not believe in using public funds for private schools

375 PAMELA KELLY: Testifies on HB 2892

-parent of children in Portland school district; describes broad range of experiences

TAPE 27, SIDE B

-believes that the legislature can encourage school boards and

administrators to use the local provisions to address district needs

-minority populations or special education are not properly addressed in this bill

-concerned about the conversion of private schools which would drain money and destabilize public schools

-lack of data

-student achievement increases with parental involvement

100 SUSANN KALTWASSEK, TAG PARENT NETWORK: Testifies in favor of HB 2892

-shares experiences of people involved in charter schools

-chartering process provides checks and balances

-parental commitment

-support of charter schools; believes that most parents will choose to stay

with the public schools

-looking for options

-in response to Lehman, discusses administrators in the Salem Keizer public

schools looking at charter schools to provide flexibility into the current system; especially for TAG students within the current process

315 PHIL KEISLING, SECRETARY OF STATE: Testifies on HB 2892

-background

-perspective on education

-intrigued by the general notion of charter schools

-new approaches to education

-emphasis on accountability

325 MIKE PONGRACZ: Testifies in favor of HB 2892

-supportive of HB 3565 because it addresses appropriate education

-my sons are both TAG students

-exasperated with the current system

-TAG mandate has been totally ineffective; complaint has been filed

TAPE 28, SIDE B

-doesn't believe that there should be a cap

-there needs to be direct competition to the current public school system and the only way to do that is to threaten to take away funds from the public schools

020 REP. KITTY PIERCY, DISTRICT 39: Testifies on HB 2892

-proud of Eugene's first class education system

-introduces Dr. Nichols and Dr. Barnhart

030 DR. MARGARET NICHOLS, SUPERINTENDENT, EUGENE SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J:

Submits and reads written testimony in opposition to HB 2892 (EXHIBIT I)

-our school district is nationally known for its open enrollment policy and

alternative schools

-it is known as one of the top seven districts in the nation for choice in education

-SAT scores rank higher

-in response to Lehman, discusses charter sponsorship

104 DR. PHIL BARNHART, EUGENE SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J: Testifies in opposition to HB 2892

-describes language immersion school which is an example of parental involvement and is allowed by the current structure

-parents are able to make choices of where their children are going to attend school

- very active Eugene education fund
- sees this bill as being unnecessary
- in response to Lehman, discusses funding issues and limitations

181 PIERCY: I teach in a building that houses two schools

190 JAN VANDER TUIN, CENTER FOR APPROPRIATE TRANSPORT: Testifies in favor of HB 2892

- non-profit center
- contract with schools to leverage funds
- work with human power; teach how to build bikes and work on them
- Oregon Cycling paper
- difficult to make this work, trying to work with any and all systems
- what we offer is not offered in school; shops have been closed
- certification issues; none of my instructors are certified teachers
- we operate a lean project
- charter schools will allow me to teach youth

331 LAURA MONROE: Testifies in favor of HB 2892

- have three children in Sheridan school district
- quality parents have left the public school system
- we don't have choices in my community
- working on developing an alternative program
- happy to see the home school movement growing
- a lot of drop outs in our community
- a lot of students unprepared to enter college
- chance to participate in athletics and for parental involvement
- foreign language was not offered when I attended Sheridan school
- want my children to have more opportunities

TAPE 29, SIDE A

-sees charter schools as one more way for the public schools to serve the children are not being served now

050 CLIFF MONROE: Testifies on HB 2892

- have worked hard for years to make positive things happen in Sheridan
- our time and energy could be much better spent
- this gives small communities choices

221 SCOTT SMITH: Testifies in favor of HB 2892

- reads excerpts from Animal Schools
- reads issue statement

JANE FLEISCHB EIN: Submits and reads written testimony in favor of HB 2892 (EXHIBIT J)

-in response to Thompson, thinks charter schools will keep people in the school system

TAPE 30, SIDE A

SMITH: Comments

109 GREG PERRY: Testifies in favor of HB 2892

- background
- charter schools give parents choice to create a school that better meets the needs of their children
- personal experience in creating an alternative school
- healthy competition
- submits written statement (EXHIBIT K)

225 VICKIE CHICK: Testifies on HB 2892
-sells software for educational purposes to parents of children who are far behind

-parents who are both employed are disadvantaged because they cannot home school their children
-parents who do not have a lot of money are disadvantaged because they cannot send their kids to private schools
-there is an urgency for charter schools

315 LINSEY RAHMON: Submits and summarizes written testimony in favor of HB 2892 (EXHIBIT L)
-it is hard to make change at the level of site councils
-when asking for assistance from site council they responded that their hands are tied

TAPE 29, SIDE B

-time to light a fire under the State Board of Education; go to the schools and make them better by involving citizens
-frustrations
-charter schools are more like public schools than private schools because we are staying in the same framework of state government
-there are options for the rich
-presents funding formula

DARREN BOARD: Submits and reads written testimony on HB 2892 (EXHIBIT M)

330 MIKE NEHUSER: Submits and reads written testimony in favor of HB 2892 (EXHIBIT N)
TAPE 30, SIDE B

BETH UNVERZAGT, ABIQUA SCHOOL: Testifies on HB 2892
-we don't have the elite of Salem attending our school
-a referendum will occur some time in the future because parents are frustrated
-firm believer of HB 3565
-there are many wonderful teachers who are truly trying
-concerned parents
-background

LEHMAN: Wide range of things that people feel are good and bad about the current system

120 PETE READY, COMMUNITY SERVICES CONSORTIUM: Testifies in favor of HB 2892
-alternative education
-background
-describes consortium
-we are accredited as special purpose schools
-have worked as partner with school districts
-learning centers that are funded but do not have enough room for all of the kids
-work closely with several schools
-if regulations are in place, there is accountability
-refers to article
-changes
-monopolies don't easily go away
-suggests outlining specific guidelines that charter schools should meet
-through charter schools extend services to those who are not currently

being served
-interagency agreement

350 TORI HAWKINS AND BRITTNEY WHEELER, AFRICAN/AMERICAN YOUTH FORUM:
Testify in favor of HB 2892

HAWKINS: I didn't feel safe in public school
-funding issues
-in order to feel safe you need to feel wanted

WHEELER: You shouldn't have to go to a school where you aren't wanted
-Beaverton school district has nothing to offer
-would feel safer in a charter school

HAWKINS: Charter school would offer more challenges to the student to
become the best that you can

TAPE 31, SIDE A

040 ALEXIS RAINBOW: Testifies in favor of HB 2892
-were excited to move here because of the high rating of school districts;
decided to move to Beaverton
-after moving, we found that parents felt the children were not challenged,

they played all day, they did not feel safe
-became involved and found teachers lying to parents
-were not prepared to home school; had not budgeted to send them to private

school

-only choice I had was to go to private school
-charter schools will offer choices
-private school expects me to be accountable

100 SHARON WILSON-WHEELER: Testifies in favor of HB 2892
-biggest concern is safety of the school
-had no choice but to home school because my children were physically and
emotionally violated

-as a parent I thought if I was involved with my children and their school
that nothing bad would happen - but it has

-my daughter goes back east to participate in medical programs (wants to
become a doctor) but when my child comes back home and goes to school in
Beaverton she cannot function

-when I started to home school my children once again began to learn
-testing at the school district differed dramatically from college tests
-our only hope is for charter schools
-as a parent I celebrate my children and am willing to do whatever is
necessary

-in response to Milne, elaborates on the basic skills test
-in response to Milne, the school district is not willing to help find
alternative schooling for my daughter

239 WALTER LEE: Submits and reads written testimony on HB 2892 (EXHIBIT O)

Submitted for the record testimony from Jim Hill (EXHIBIT P)

TAPE 31, SIDE A

022 CHAIR MILNE: Adjourns meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Reviewed by,

Pamela Berger

Jan McComb

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - HB 2892 - testimony - Eighmey - 1 p
B - HB 2892 - proposed amendments - Eighmey - 2 pp
C - HB 2892 - testimony - Gore - 1 p
D - HB 2892 - testimony - Crisp - 5 pp
E - HB 2892 - testimony - Richter - 2 pp
F - HB 2892 - testimony - Pratt - 1 p
G - HB 2892 - testimony - Stone - 2 pp
H - HB 2892 - testimony - Plaeger - 2 pp
I - HB 2892 - testimony - Nichols - 30 pp
J - HB 2892 - testimony - FleischHB ein 1 p
K - HB 2892 - testimony - Perry - 2 pp
L - HB 2892 - testimony - Rahmun - 2 pp
M - HB 2892 - testimony - Board - 6 pp
N - HB 2892 - testimony - Niehuser - 4 pp
O - HB 2892 - testimony - Lee - 3 pp
P - HB 2892 - testimony from Hill - staff - 2 pp