

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

June 10, 1993 Hearing Room E 1:30 p.m. Tapes 96 - 97

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Carolyn Oakley, Chair Rep. Jim Whitty, Vice-Chair
Rep. Patti Milne Rep. John Schoon Rep. Larry Sowa Rep. Sharon Wylie

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. John Meek

STAFF PRESENT: Linda Sample Brown, Administrator Carolynn
Gillson, Assistant

MEASURES CONSIDERED: SB 590 - State finan. assist. prog. for
college students contributes to well-being of Oregonians, PUB SB 16A -
Allows TSPC to revoke or refuse to issue lic. of teacher or admin.
convicted of sexual abuse in first degree, PUB SB 297 - Modifies VISTO
program, PUB

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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. [--- Unable To Translate Graphic
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TAPE 96, SIDE A

004 REP. CAROLYN OAKLEY, Chair: Calls meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

Public Hearing on SB 590 Gary Andeen, Oregon Independent Colleges Assoc.
(OICA) Doug Collins, Oregon State Scholarship Commission (OICC) Robert
Nosse, Oregon Student Lobby (OSL)

012 GARY ANDEEN, executive director, OICA: This bill defines the role
and mission of the OSSC.

032 DOUG COLLINS, deputy director, OSSC: This is appropriate
introduction language to the statute.

037 REP. PATTI MILNE: Do you anticipate this preamble will clarify the
intent and make aid easier to obtain for some people?

ANDEEN: Yes. State student aid programs in Oregon are low in priority
for funding. Putting this language in statute will remind the
Legislature and constituents that student aid is a significant and
promising component for financing access to higher education.

059 ROBERT NOSSE, executive director, OSL: Reviews his written
testimony in support of the bill and suggests some word deletions to
address their concerns (EXH. A). 101 REP. JIM WHITTY: Private
institutions get more instruction hours for their money than public
institutions because public institutions subsidize more research than
private institutions. I think the tax payers subsidize too much
research.

NOSSE: There is no major private institution doing research in this

state. Within the state institutions doing research, much of it is subsidized by federal dollars not state tax dollars.

REP. MILNE: Concerned taking out the word choice might limit a student's choice?

NOSSE: The bill is a statement of intent on the importance of financial aid and the role it plays in higher education. Taking out the word "choice" would not deter someone from going to a private school or a state school. Concerned about setting up policy and budget implications that would negatively impact students who attend and benefit from a state education.

205 REP. JOHN SCHOON: If I read this bill the way you want to change it, it takes the choice away from students affects maximum access.

NOSSE: Not sure I agree. Maybe another word could be used other than choice.

230 ANDEEN: This language was lifted verbatim from another state's statute. There are a lot of choices and it is better to have several choices for a diverse population.

Public Hearing on SB 16A David Myton, TSPC

254 DAVID MYTON, executive secretary, TSPC: Reviews his written statement explaining how SB 16A corrects omissions in statute made when the criminal code was revised. > The Senate Education committee decided to exclude the bigamy charge from the list for mandatory revocations.

REP. SCHOON: Has any consideration been given to suspending a license until the appeal procedure is over?

MYTON: If the person's conviction were under appeal and it was overturned, TSPC would certainly reconsider the case. The TSPC does not have an option in regards to the action.

Public Hearing on SB 297 Jan McCaul Virginia Brown Sen. Jeanette Hamby Jim Beier, Oregon State Scholarship Commission (OSSC) Seiji Shiratori, legislative asistant Gary Andeen, Oregon Independent College Assoc. (OICA) Ann Sukalac, Volunteers in Service to Oregon (VISTO)

330 JAN McCAUL, from Gresham: Talks about using the VISTO program at Sam Barlow High School. It is funded through the Lottery and they hope to make it a better program by including private funding.

384 VIRGINIA BROWN, Dallas Police Department: Talks about the program in Polk County. Explains what volunteers are used for and how important the program is for kids. Suggests using the program in conjunction with work study.

TAPE 97, SIDE A

013 SEN. JEANETTE HAMBY, District 5: Speaks in support of the program and explains why paying minimum wage is important. The program is tax free. The vouchers apply to any kind of secondary education program. > Talks about the addition of peer arbitration/mediation programs which have been shown to be effective. > Talks about sources of funding. Hopefully businesses will be able to use their contribution

as a tax deduction. > Explains programs people volunteer for must be recognized by VISTO.

102 REP. SCHOON: Are lottery funds being requested in a separate bill?

SEN. HAMBY: I doubt if there will be many dollars available. We plan to make a pitch for contributions from the private sector.

REP. WHITTY: Talks about a bill reorganizing the Department of Economic Development. It cuts about \$83 million out of their budget. There is a chance more lottery money may be available.

154 CHAIR OAKLEY: Concerned about the IRS looking at this as wages. The SB 297-1 amendment proposes changing the amount of the voucher to \$35 (EXH. C). Perhaps you should have an amendment drafted leaving the funding amount blank so you can put in a pitch with the Appropriations Committee for lottery dollars.

187 REP. MILNE: Would you explain why people can receive vouchers until they are 24 years old when the eligibility age in the bill has been changed to 14 through 19?

198 JIM BEIER, OSSC: We felt it was important to extend the life of the vouchers since students don't always go to school for four consecutive years. The life of the voucher is five years and if it is not used, the money goes back into the fund. The IRS views the vouchers as an educational benefit which exempts it from withholding. Began issuing vouchers in 1990. Believes the Commission would support the \$35.

REP. SCHOON: Why are we trying to compete with private industry for workers?

BEIER: Students would like to volunteer, but find they can get better paying jobs elsewhere.

REP. SCHOON: Do you have to pay competitive wages in order to get people to volunteer? There is a difference between volunteering and being a paid employe.

276 SEIJI SHIRATORI, legislative assistant to Sen. Hamby: Important to remember this money is just for school. The goal is to give kids an incentive to continue their education. Students also develop lifetime skills through volunteering.

REP. MILNE: We need to build our economy in this state through private businesses not through government programs. This is not volunteer work because these kids are getting paid. The government has no business subsidizing students. This program should be for kids who cannot find a job and the service provided to the community is an additional benefit.

316 GARY ANDEEN, OICA: The intention is to encourage young people to have a volunteer experience. It was not intended to be student aid, make believe work or wage earning. We thought a token incentive would help encourage young people to give volunteering a try. Use of the minimum wage language should be avoided.

CHAIR OAKLEY: I think this bill will have trouble on the House floor in it's current form.

ANDEEN: You might want to consider a possible income tax checkoff so people can give money to a volunteer program. > Further discussion with members concerning volunteering for pay.

TAPE 96, SIDE B

014 REP. MILNE: Do you have any figures on how many students there are and what kind of value they have accumulated with their vouchers?

020 ANN SUKALAC, VISTO coordinator: Reviews information concerning the program (EXH. D). > The cap on the amount students can earn is \$2,400. Most students earn around \$150 to \$180. > Explains why it is difficult to track what they are earning. > This is really meant to be more of a service learning program and not a voucher program. > Ninety percent of the students I have interviewed feel their VISTO experience has made them more likely to seek other volunteer activities in the future.

BEIER: Explains why an incentive is sometimes necessary to help kids get into volunteering.

063 CHAIR OAKLEY: How much do counties use for administrative expenses?

BEIER: No more than 5 percent is used for administration. Most of it is going toward the payment of worker's compensation benefits because the students are considered uncompensated volunteers under the OSSC.

086 REP. MILNE: In each county that is participating in this program, what kind of staff do they have?

SUKALAC: Each county has designated a coordinator. Typically, they are employees of another agency. They are not getting any reimbursement.

103 CHAIR OAKLEY: Adjourns meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Reviewed and submitted by:

Carolynn Gillson Assistant

EXHIBIT LOG: A - Testimony on SB 590 - OSL - 2 pages B - Testimony on SB 16A - TSPC - 1 page C - Amendments to SB 297 - Committee staff - 1 page D - Testimony on SB 297 - VISTO - 2 pages