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report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

House Special Committee on Children's Issues March 20, 1991, Page HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN'S ISSUES

March 20, 1991 Hearing Room F 3:00 p.m. Tapes 15 - 16

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Bob Pickard Rep. Mary Alice Ford Rep. Carolyn Oakley Rep. Beverly Stein

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Vera Katz, Vice-Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Melanie Zermer, Committee Administrator Carolynn Gillson, Committee Assistant

ISSUE AND MEASURE CONSIDERED: Child Care HB 3218 -
Relating to establishing criteria for grants to educate and train providers of early childhood care and education

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TAPE 15, SIDE A

005 REP. BOB PICKARD, CHAIR: Calls the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Rep. Katz is excused.

(Tape 15, Side A) Child Care Update (cont. from March 6)

Witnesses: Kevin Concannon, Department of Human Resources (DHR)
Janice Elliott, Child Care Programs, Department of Human Resources

014 KEVIN CONCANNON, director, DHR: The child care arena is an area of expansion in both the public and private sector. The federal Child Care Block Grant funds provide Oregon with a major opportunity for the state. Oregon needs to look at child care as part of its strategic planning in terms of the Benchmarks. How does it fit with some of Oregon's larger goals? > The Child Care Block Grant comes along when the state is faced with some critical financial choices. One portion would be dedicated to providing child care for migrant families. The funds for that program were eliminated in the Governor's budget because we knew the block grant funds would be available. > There were some simultaneous commissions either authorized by or encouraged by the 1989 Legislature. Among them, was the Commission on Teen Parenthood. The group recommended a percentage of child care funds to assure that teen moms and their children are provided access to child care. > The Child Care Commission will launch a strategic planning process involving community forums. Recommendations will be made on allocating the block grant. It is our intention to get those recommendations to the Legislature in early May. > The grant will bring in an additional \$15 million in the next two-year period. > Special populations that will be considered include: teen parents, disabled children living with families and children in foster

care. The average age of foster children is about five and one-half. There are a growing number of children from dysfunctional families. Also need child care for children of parents who are enrolled in alcohol rehabilitation programs. > Use the block grant to address the quality of child care. > Planning process is participative. Groups are hosted regionally by the Child Care Commission and the Children and Youth Services Planning Commissions. > It is the Governor's desire to build on existing systems and programs and facilitate local decision making. Challenge to ensure different populations are considered. > There is a concern about supplanting state funds and using the funds to offset the reductions resulting from Measure 5. The planning so far has been without federal regulation. Hope to soon have technically advisory letter from the administration about the boundaries. > Advised there will be no residency prohibition for use of the block grant funds. > It would disadvantageous to put off making fundamental recommendations to you. > Hope to use this to expand the involvement of the private sector. > Lists the benchmarks involved.

259 JANICE ELLIOTT, assistant child care coordinator, DHRChild Care Programs: There are a number of bills dealing with child care. Some of them specifically address the child care block grant. HB 3218 addresses the issue of training and training standards. > Our preference is that the Legislature not take decisive actions on funding allocations which could preclude the community input process. > Need to look at specific targeted programs to develop resources in areas that have been previously unserved. > Child care assistance is not going to be put directly into the hands of families - programs will be made available. > The Child Care Commission is trying to get a sense of how all the pieces fit together including state resources and federal funding streams. > Prefer that the Legislature have a full picture before making decisions on individual bills and programs.

350 CHAIR PICKARD: Are you saying the Legislature should stay at arms length with what is going on in child care right now?

ELLIOTT: Yes, in terms of funding but not in terms of interest.

407 REP. MARY ALICE FORD: Could some of the other \$3 million for at-risk families be used for teen mothers or migrant workers?

ELLIOTT: Teen parents are likely recipients of that money. The money would not be used for backfilling.

CONCANNON: The migrant workers is a backfill issue. It will depend on the definition of what constitutes supplant. The money for at-risk has a narrower focus than the block grant money. It will be used in conjunction with the JOBS program of AFS. Oregon will get \$1.4 million.

TAPE 16, SIDE A

048 REP. FORD: When you figured out the budget for the JOBS program, was the \$3.1 million included in that budget projection?

CONCANNON: Yes indeed.

(Tape 15, Side A) HB 3218 - Establishing criteria for grants to educate and train providers of certain early childhood care and education
Witnesses: Carol Compagna, American Red Cross Brett Madsen, American Red Cross Pat Mickiewica, Child Care Commission Mary Bentley-Gardner, family child care provider Kathryn White, Association of Retarded

Citizens

067 CAROL COMPAGNA, American Red Cross: Brett Madsen and myself have worked in child care centers for one year. The average child care worker makes about \$5.35 an hour. They often don't have the money on their own to get state mandated training. We are in support of this bill. Training dollars do need to be found in the state. Health and safety issues are the first step in quality day care. Through Multnomah county Great Start dollars, we have brought a Red Cross national curriculum into the state for both home care and child care providers. It is free at this time.

082 BRETT MADSEN, American Red Cross: Over 40 percent of our students have not completed a first aid course since high school. The number one killer of children over the age of nine months is an accident. All of our courses are full. The grant runs out on June 1. We have trained 40 instructors who can reproduce the classes.

COMPAGNA: Explains what the course covers and refers to information in her handout (EXHIBIT A). > Course is modular so different needs can be met. > Oregon is only one of the three states that has introduced the course. > The demand for the course is statewide.

MADSEN: The American Red Cross needs additional funds to introduce and offer this course.

COMPAGNA: Oregon needs to set some standards for training child care providers.

156 REP. FORD: I have no problem with setting standards for training. I have a major problem with providers expecting higher salaries than the public can afford to pay to participate in day care programs.

COMPAGNA: Parents cannot afford to send their children to any care setting that is not safe.

168 CHAIR PICKARD: You don't want to discourage people from going into day care by putting too many standards on them. You reduce the availability.

MADSEN: The training needs to be widely available at a low cost to all providers.

188 COMPAGNA: The grant was for about \$20,000 and it lasted from November, 1990, through the end of June, 1991. We will have trained 120 providers by the time the grant is ended.

CHAIR PICKARD: What was the most you found a provider getting paid?

MADSEN: Some studies are being done by the Child Care Commission.

223 PAT CONOVER MICKIEWICZ, Child Care Commission member: We are advocating

program design. We are committed to the community input process. > Talks about the Oregon Child Care Initiative. Their goal is to promote private investment in child care. They are now in the process of administering training grants. This grant is focused on family provider training. Refers to material in her handout (EXHIBIT B). > The Child Care Initiative granting system has divided the state into 16 service

delivery areas (see map in handout). > Five out of 14 grant proposals were funded for one year. > HB 3218 would build on the program that is already working. > We would expand the funds to any existing provider. Twenty percent of the funds are earmarked for bilingual or cross-grant training.

297 MARY BENTLEY-GARDNER: I am an advocate for quality, affordable, fair market child care. > Uses visual aids and reads her testimony to describe the life of the family of a family child care provider (EXHIBIT C). > Reviews information in her handout. > Three parts of child care - the family, the child and the provider.

TAPE 15, SIDE B

002 CHAIR PICKARD: How long have you cared for other people's children?

BENTLEY-GARDNER: I have had other peoples children in my home for 36 years.

027 REP. MELAINE ZERMER, Administrator: Is it the intention of the commission not to get state funds for doing what the bill proposes?

MICKIEWICZ: At this point, we do not intend to ask the Legislature for money.

032 CHAIR PICKARD: Do you find competition among day care providers for help?

BENTLEY-GARDNER: If they can find a position where someone is paying more, they will leave and leave quickly. > Talks about her employes. > Explains how many children they care for.

068 KATHRYN WHITE, Association for Retarded Citizens of Multnomah County: Training becomes a major issue for parents who have children with special needs. It is difficult to find trained, adequate child care, respite care, and babysitters. Families who have children with special needs pay much more an hour for care. It ranges from \$5 or \$6 an hour to \$30 an hour. > Requests special training be added to the bill along with bilingual and cross cultural training.

092 CHAIR PICKARD: Explain to me the difference in costs?

WHITE: The \$30 an hour rate is typically for a nurse in a respite situation. > Usually, in a two-parent family with a special needs child, one parent stays home full-time with the child.

117 REP. FORD: Where in the bill would you want language to address training for providers of disabled children?

WHITE: Perhaps just include language to address bilingual, cross-cultural and special needs children. > School becomes a major child care provider for families with children who have disabilities.

158 BENTLEY-GARDNER: Suggests having funds available for release time and backup care so the family child care provider can attend training classes during the day. By the end of the day, providers do not have the energy, mentally or physically, to attend classes.

180 CHAIR PICKARD: Adjourns the meeting 4:20 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by:

Carolynn GillsonLee Penny Assistant Administrator

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - Testimony on HB 3218 - American Red Cross - 12 pages
B - Funding Recommendations for HB 3218 - Oregon Child Care
Commission - 3 pages C - Testimony on HB 3218 - Mary
Bentley-Gardner - 6 pages