

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

April 18, 1991                      Hearing Room 343 3:00 p.m.                      Tapes 63 - 64  
MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Bill McCoy, Vice-Chair Sen. Joan Dukes Sen. Ron  
Grensky Sen. Paul Phillips Sen. Cliff Trow MEMBER EXCUSED:                      Sen.  
Shirley Gold, Chair Sen. Peter Brockman VISITING MEMBER: Sen. Grattan  
Kerans STAFF PRESENT:    Jan Barga, Committee Administrator Angela  
Muniz, Committee Assistant

MEASURES HEARD: SB 961- Work Permits Based on Academic Performance -  
PH SB 804 - Placement of Dependent Children - PH SB 486 - Parental  
School Attendance for Suspended Students- PH

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 63, SIDE A

005 VICE CHAIR MCCOY: Calls the hearing to order at 3:15 p.m.

SB 961 - WORK PERMITS BASED ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE - PUBLIC HEARING:  
Witnesses: Sen. Grattan Kerans, District 20 Mary Wendy Roberts, Labor  
Commissioner Bill Cross, Oregon Restaurant Association Mike McCallum,  
Oregon Restaurant Association Marvin Evans, Confederation of School  
Administrators Norma Paulus, Superintendent of Public Instruction Paul  
Tiffany, Bureau of Labor and Industry

011 SEN. GRATTAN KERANS, District 20: Presents written testimony  
(EXHIBIT A). Studies show a link between working and school. SB 961  
would help students who are falling behind in school because of work.  
New Hampshire is conducting a longitudinal study on this issue.

078 MARY WENDY ROBERTS, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and  
Industry: Presents written testimony and shares results of the Child  
Labor Task Force survey which is included in the testimony (EXHIBIT B).  
Explains graphs showing the hours worked for 16 and 17 year olds. Senate  
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178 SEN. TROW: What percentage of students did you say were  
self-supporting?

ROBERTS: Ten percent. Continues explaining the graphs. Findings in the  
report are consistent with national findings. Refers to graphs showing  
responses from the employers of 16 and 17 year olds. Supports SB 961 but  
enforcement of child labor laws must not be compromised.

295 SEN. TROW: Is wondering about the workability of the bill.

ROBERTS: The bureau is willing to work on any language or wording  
adjustments to ensure the bill works.

SEN. TROW: There is no funding in the bill so assumes it would rely on  
cooperation from the parties involved.

ROBERTS: A fiscal statement is available for the bill.

SEN. TROW: But there is no funding in SB 961. It would have to go to

Ways and Means. How many school districts would take part in the pilot project?

ROBERTS: Is not sure.

SEN. TROW: The bill doesn't specify how many will take part in the program. Will school districts volunteer for it? Are there any volunteers yet?

ROBERTS: Believes the intent was to have schools volunteer for the pilot program to evaluate the program. Wants to have it in different geographical areas.

SEN. TROW: Would both the schools and students volunteer? Students would volunteer to keep their grades up and principals would volunteer to revoke work permits if the students don't keep their grades up?

ROBERTS: Supports the concept of the bill. Has asked similar questions. The concept is to establish the linkage between the school and the work permit system. Students wouldn't volunteer to put their work permits under review. Schools would volunteer and a review process would be established. It will take some time to develop the rules. There are many employers who want to have a skilled labor force for the future and a labor force at the present. Work experience can be positive. Doesn't want to hinder that.

405 BILL CROSS, Oregon Restaurant Association: Supports SB 961. Presents written testimony (EXHIBIT C). Explains a proposed plan that would revise the work permit system currently used in Oregon. The plan is based on the system used in Washington.

TAPE 64, SIDE A

083 MIKE MCCALLUM, Oregon Restaurant Association: The current work permit system handles Restaurant Association: The current work permit system handles about 130 ,000 permits that have no real purpose. The authorization form provides information to the employer and BOLI inspectors. Another Senate bill would increase the work Senate Committee on Education April 18, 1991- Page 3

permit fees. The proposal the Restaurant Association is suggesting could operate without any fees. It would relieve the need to process forms because the employer would keep it.

112 SEN. DUKES: In this proposal, nothing is sent to the bureau. Who provides the oversight for this program?

CROSS: The Bureau of Labor and Industry would be the regulatory body. That is how it is done in Washington state. The employer keeps the work permit; the labor bureau is not a repository for it.

SEN. DUKES: Don't you think that is taking a risk? There are kids who want to work and parents who don't care. It seems there is a chance to monitor kids if work permits go through the bureau.

MCCALLUM: Not changing the risk. BOLI is not doing anything now with the work permits. The data in the new form gives the bureau more of an opportunity to find out about children's situations.

CROSS: The employers wouldn't mind copying the form for the bureau, but

it would mean more cost. Wants to link the schools to the work permit system. Doesn't mind if you add another step in the process.

175 SEN. DUKES: The proposed plan does effectively tie schools, parents and employers together.

CROSS: The form would have to be updated if the student changes the job or hours. Functionally it doesn't make sense for the bureau to do that.

- 190 MARVIN EVANS, Confederation of Oregon School Administrators: Supports SB 961. Involving schools in the amount of time a student can work is worthy of a pilot program. It will involve additional work for the school but the legislative counsel for COSA does not oppose the bill. Discourages the idea of students volunteering for the program.

236 SEN. TROW: There is no fiscal impact for the schools. There must be some costs to schools. It will keep principals busy tracking students' progress. Are school districts willing to assume those costs? Ten percent of the working kids are self-supporting. If you say they can't work because their grades aren't up, who supports them? What's to keep them from dropping out to work? EVANS: It is difficult to know the fiscal impact of the bill. Many secondary schools have a system to check students' progress for athletic and extra-curricular programs. The problem is significant enough to take the risk. 284 SEN. TROW: The bill doesn't give schools much choice. The way the bill reads the Labor Bureau will select the schools. Did you understand it to be voluntary? EVANS: Is not concerned about that. Even if you made it mandatory for all schools, COSA would support the bill. The self-supporting student needs to be considered. It is possible that the student would drop out of school. Rep. Vera Katz' bill (HB 3565) would prevent a person

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under 18 from getting a work permit if the student has not completed his or her certificate of initial mastery. It says to the student that education is an important facet of life.

317 SEN. GRENSKY: Are work permits only for people under 16?

ROBERTS: It is under 18.

SEN. GRENSKY: The bill is vague. How is it going to work?

EVANS: The bill is vague. Supports the concept and will work out the details later.

SEN. GRENSKY: Doesn't like to do things that way. Agrees in the concept as well and that it should be done at every school.

SEN. TROW: As a former school teacher remembers that having a job is a safety valve for some kids. If they don't have a job, then may have intense discipline problems with children who do not value education as much.

354 EVANS: Considers work to be a valuable experience. Doesn't want to preclude young people from working. The intent to ask them to be productive students and work as well.

SEN. DUKES: The schools won't preclude someone from having a work permit just because the student has low grades. Not everyone is an 'A' or 'B' student.

EVANS: Agrees. Explains situations that would be considered grounds for revoking a work permit.

SEN. DUKES: Would like to hear the agency response to the second proposal suggested by the Restaurant Association.

400 NORMA PAULUS, Superintendent of Public Instruction: Supports the bill and will do what she can to cooperate with the Labor Bureau. One of the logical test sites would be McKay High School and Roosevelt High School. Those schools have been chosen for pilot programs with Rep. Katz' bill.

TAPE 63, SIDE B

030 SEN. GRENSKY: How do we address the kids who aren't motivated about school but go anyway? What do we do to get them interested.

PAULUS: Thinks the dropout rate is related to curriculum that does not meet the needs of the students. The Legislature needs to send a signal that education is important.

SEN. GRENSKY: Isn't the problem really that students are not getting the reinforcement at home that education is important? How do we address that problem?

PAULUS: There are several ways such as child care and day care. Need to shift more resources to the earlier ages. Need to change the curriculum to what is suggested in Rep. Katz' bill. Need

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to introduce technical education at an early age. Uses Corvallis as an example.

070 SEN. GRENSKY: The problem is that some kids just don't care about school. What about kids that don't get the reinforcement from home?

PAULUS: That is another part of the problem. If change the school system and curriculum, will help.

SEN. GRENSKY: The kids are working only because the parents don't say no. Can only do so much until the parents say you must go to school.

SEN. TROW: Agrees that you must address problems in a variety of ways. Much of this is systemic and cultural. Need to have expectations of kids either at home or at the school. Also have a drug and alcohol that factors in to the statistic.

PAULUS: This is no panacea, but it is a good step. It links into what she is trying to do.

120 ROBERTS: Is pleased with the superintendent's support. Clarifies the bureau's position on the suggested plan. Doesn't want to give up effective enforcement. The proposals don't take that into consideration.

139 PAUL TIFFANY, Wage and Hour Division, Bureau of Labor and Industry: Clarifies the process the bureau has for issuing work permits. There is a comparison between the employer permit and the work permit. The Ways and Means Committee wants BOLI to continue with its current system

ROBERTS: It also wants BOLI to charge for the employer permits.

174 SEN. TROW: Are they waiting for this bill in Ways and Means to include in your budget?

ROBERTS: Understands the bill will go to Ways and Means. There is another bill that would consider establishing fees for the service.

SEN. GRENSKY: Can we move this out today?

ROBERTS: There are some things that need to be clarified in the bill.

SB 486 - PARENTAL ATTENDANCE FOR SUSPENDED CHILD - PUBLIC HEARING:  
Witnesses: Norma Paulus, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Owczarzak, Citizen

198 NORMA PAULUS: There is a lack of discipline in schools today for a variety of reasons. Need to have more parental involvement. SB 486 would allow a district that suspends a student to require a parent to come into the school. It would make parents more responsible for their children. Alternative schools are expensive and the disruptive students learn how to take advantage of that.

250 SEN. GRENSKY: How does your comment about disruptive students tie in with the bill? What

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do you mean?

PAULUS: The alternative school system is to prevent students from getting suspended and not getting an education. There are students that know they can't be suspended and work the system by being sent from one alternative school to the next.

SEN. GRENSKY: You are saying there are kids that prefer getting shipped around to the alternative schools rather than being in a regular school.

PAULUS: Yes, and the alternative schools are expensive. Wants to change the system. Their is more emphasis placed on protecting the students rights. The system doesn't put the priority on the student who is there and wants to learn. The bill may be some way to do that.

305 SEN. DUKES: Do your schools try to contact the parents before the student is suspended? Should bring parents involved in the problem earlier in the process. Don't need to pass law to do that; you can do that now.

PAULUS: Not sure if she has the authority. The Board of Education may be able to. The school community doesn't support this bill. Wants to set some reasonable standards of behavior for students.

355 SEN. DUKES: We need to teach kids in the manner that they learn. Also need more education for counselors for identification of learning disabilities. After those barriers are removed, will have fewer disruptive children. Often will suspend a child when there are deeper problems to address.

PAULUS: Agrees, is working on all areas of the problem.

SEN. PHILLIPS: Doesn't think the bill goes far enough. Has a problem with Skinheads in his district. If they beat up another student, they should be thrown out.

PAULUS: Talked to the mother of the son who was attacked by the other students. The mother and son were terrified that the Skinheads were being readmitted to the school.

412 SEN. PHILLIPS: Sen. Dukes is right. We need to get the parent involved first. If that doesn't work then the school superintendent should have the choice to let the student back in or not. Some of the students are not delinquents, they are criminals.

SEN. TROW: We need to look at the bill closely. Doesn't want to bring angry parents into the classroom and subject other students to that anger.

435 TOM OWCZARZAK, Citizen: Has looked at three aspects of education: money, education of students and discipline. The bill addresses the discipline aspect. Supports SB 961 because it encourages interaction between schools with the students' lives. The bill hopes to include parents with the system and hold parents somewhat responsible for their student's actions.

TAPE 64, SIDE B

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044 SEN. GRENSKY: What has lead you to this idea?

OWCZARZAK: It is part of a holistic approach to changing education to be more effective. His mother-in-law is a principal in San Diego. These suggestions were raised while discussing education with her. Another bill he would like to have would be to make it a misdemeanor to verbally or physically harass or threaten a staff member at school.

SEN. GRENSKY: It is already a crime to physically or verbally threaten someone.

OWCZARZAK: In San Diego, if that occurs, 9-1-1 is dialed and the parent is brought into the problem. SB 804 - PLACEMENT OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN - PUBLIC HEARING: Witnesses: Bill Drew, Legislative Aide Irv Nikolai, Forest Grove School District Ron Johnson, Lowell School District

BILL DREW, Legislative Aide: Presents a memo introducing SB 804 and suggesting amendments (EXHIBIT D).

089 IRV NIKOLAI, Superintendent, Forest Grove School District: Presents written testimony and explains graphs included (EXHIBIT E). School district is in the safety net and has lost revenues for several years. Special education costs have increased during that time. Educating disabled students is more expensive than educating other students. Explains costs and money received through federal funds. Has discussed placement of children in other districts with CSD.

245 SEN. DUKES: The Senate Revenue Committee is looking at an extra waiver for special education students as part of the long-term funding plan for schools. That proposal may help reduce your costs.

NIKOLAI: Is aware of what the Revenue Committee is doing. Appreciates it.

SEN. TROW: The state used to try to pick up 50% of the extra costs. Now it is down to 7%. We haven't done what we have promised and neither has the federal government. The school districts have had to pick up the costs; it is a burden.

RON JOHNSON, Lowell School District: Offers to come back and testify at another hearing.

SEN. GRENSKY: A lot of SB 804 does is being addressed in Senate Revenue. Revenue is working on SB 814 right now.

305 NIKOLAI: Appreciates the invitation. There are two issues here: funding and administrative procedures.

SEN. PHILLIPS: Doesn't sit on Revenue and appreciates the witnesses coming and sharing their situation. If something doesn't come out of Revenue, we can deal with it here.

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NIKOLAI: There are also tuition students that the districts can take.

SEN. TROW: It is a substantive issues that the committee should be concerned about.

BARGEN: Presents testimony from Ron Johnson (EXHIBIT F) and Sandy Houck (EXHIBIT G, EXHIBIT H) for the record.

340 VICE CHAIR MCCOY: Adjourns the hearing at 5 p.m. Submitted by:  
Reviewed by: Angela Muniz Jan Barga Assistant  
Administrator

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - Testimony on SB 961 - Sen. Grattan Kerans - 3 pages B - Testimony on SB 961 - Mary Wendy Roberts - 27 pages C - Testimony on SB 961 - Bill Cross - 13 pages D - Testimony on SB 804 - Bill Drew - 3 pages E - Testimony on SB 804 - Irv Nikolai - 8 pages F - Testimony on SB 804 - Ron Johnson - 2 pages G - Testimony on SB 804 - Sandy Houck - 1 page H - Testimony on SB 804 - Sandy Houck - 3 pages

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