

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH INSURANCE AND BIOETHICS January 20, 1991 -
Page

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.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH INSURANCE AND BIOETHICS

March 21, 1991Hearing Room C 3:00 p.m.Tapes 34 - 37

MEMBERS PRESENT:Sen. Bob Shoemaker, Chair Sen. Joyce Cohen,
Vice-Chair Sen. Jeannette Hamby Sen. Lenn Hannon Sen. Frank Roberts

VISITING MEMBER:Representative Kelly Clark

STAFF PRESENT: Barbara Coombs, Committee Administrator Mark
Sigel, Committee Assistant

MEASURESSB 833, SB 53 CONSIDERED:

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 34, SIDE A

Witnesses: Mary Alice Bjork, Department of Insurance and Finance Art
James, Executive Department

000 CHAIR SHOEMAKER: Calls meeting to order at 3:10.

001 MARY ALICE BJORK, DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AND FINANCE (DIF): Submits (EXHIBIT A) the dash 1 amendments to SB 53. The amendments allow reductions of beenfits below 100% when 2 or more policies cover a person but not before the greater of benefits paid under all such plans.

085 ART JAMES, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT: Is in full agreement with the dash 1 amendments.

090 TOM ERWIN, CONSUMER ADVOCATE: Testifies in opposition to the bill in part. Consumers will have to pay more. Wants to limit the affect of this bill to SEBB only. This bill is a cost shifting measure - it will shift costs from the employer to the employee.

184 ERWIN: My wife had brain surgery costing over \$25,000 in October. If SB 53 were in effect and we had to pay 20% of that it could have hurt us financially very badly.

200 CHAIR SHOEMAKER: Look at it this way: You are buying a health insurance plan that covers 80% of medical costs. You are supposed to take care of the other 20%. If you want your plan to cover 100% you can buy a plan that will cover 100%. But currently you are getting the last 20% as a freebie because of the unintended way we are coordinating insurance benefits. In the interest of cost containment, SB 53 seeks to eliminate this unintended coordination of benefits situation.

265 SENATOR HAMBY: Do all state employees have the option to get health insurance plans which cover 100% of medical costs?

322 JAMES: If you are a state employee and you get the most extensive coverage through Blue Cross., I believe it only covers 95% of expenses.

370 SENATOR HANNON: A factor that may complicate SB 53 is that some insurance companies won't accept an employer's group unless it contains 100% of the employer's employees and dependents.

- "If you want this kind of a bill then you have to make that kind of a provision for somebody to be able to exempt out and not have to be forced into paying two premiums recognizing that they are only going to get one benefit."

404

TAPE 35, SIDE A

Witnesses: Tom Erwin, Mary Alice Bjork, Department of Insurance and Finance Paul Kirk, Representative Kelly Clark

004 ERWIN:

010 SENATOR HANNON:

025 BJORK: There is a requirement that people

043 CHAIR SHOEMAKER: Moves to adopt the dash one amendments

050 SENATOR HANNON; Wants to wait til Thursday tro act on SB 53.

063 CHAIR SHOEMAKER: Now we shall hear SB 833.

071 PAUL KIRK: Explains the need for universal need for prenatal care. Explains that providers' difficulty in getting

125 REPRESENTATIVE KELLY CLARK: Supports SB 833. Understands that its not fair to place a burden on victims of malpractice in order to expand access to maternity care.

183 LYNN WYDELL: Submits (EXHIBIT B) which explains that SB 833 is crucial for her organization getting affordable liability linsrance in order to continue providing maternity access.

293 WENDY LANG, SACRD HEART: Submits (EXHIBIT C) which similarly explains that liability insurance is a primary obstacle to providing maternity care. Also supports SB 833.

338 CHAIR SHOEMAKER: Did you say you would recoup some of the costs ...

380 SENATOR ROBERTS: You mentioned certified nurses midwives. However, there is no mention of them in the bill?

400 CHAIR SHOEMAKER: Actually, it is mentioned in

TAPE 34, SIDE B

Witnesses: Karen Whitaker, Office of Rural Health Ian Timm, Oregon Primary Care Association

010 KAREN WHITAKER, DIRECTOR OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH: Submits (EXHIBIT D) which explains that SB 833 is especially important for pregnant women living in rural areas.

058 CHAIR SHOEMAKER: Do you include lay midwives when defining the extent of inadequate care or total lack of care?

062 WHITAKER:

140 SENATOR ROBERTS:

151 IAN TIMM, OREGON PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION: Submits (EXHIBIT E) which explains his organization supports SB 833 because their highest priority is to expand access to prenatal care and maternity care.

260 DONNA CLARK, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, HEALTH DIVISION: Submits (EXHIBIT F) which explains that this bill would eliminate the large barrier of unaffordable liability insurance.

325 CHRIS ROACH, NURSE AND PREGNANT PATIENT AT SACRED HEART: Called every obstetrician in Eugene during her first pregnancy but without insurance couldn't get one to give her care.

364 JUDY GRIFFIN: Had a child through St. Vincent's charity program. However, the doctor only saw her once or twice before delivering her baby. When she had her last child through Healthy Start it was a much better experience.

TAPE 35, SIDE B

Witnesses:

JERRILYN NESS, WASHINGTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES COALITION:

BRANDY CHASTAIN, ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL: Submits (EXHIBIT H)

060 JEFF HEATHERINGTON:

068 SENATOR WAYNE FAWBUSH: There's a severe shortage of obstetricians in Hood River and Wasco County.

140 _____ OFFICE OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: Supports

160 JANE BOLIN, OREGON TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION: Support establishing maternity care access programs but oppose limiting liability settlements.

225 fr: Do you believe that the Legislature can ...

233 CHARLES WILLIAMSON: OTLA:

240 BILL GAYLORD, OTLA: There is no malpractice crisis that needs to be addressed by further limiting Oregonian's right to liability protection.

300 fr: Are you saying there are,nt any restrictions on

307 LAWRENCE WOLBURN:TLA: Obstetricans are altereafy paying the top premium.

404 BILL GAYLORD: This billmay simply be to provide an umbrella of immunity from tort cases fro doctors.

TAPE 36, SIDE A

Witnesses:

024 WILLIAMSON: If you need to cover the programs you can mandate that they be covered. This bill is unconstitutional. Insurance companies won't write policies based on this bill because of its unconstitutionality. Its unconstitutional to establish a cap on liability caliams for one grou in the state that differs from the rest of the people in the state.

210 MIKE McCracken, OREGON MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: Submits (EXHIBIT K) which provides background information on obstetrical carein Oregon.

288 FR:

325 MAURA ROCHE: Asks the committee to consider an amendment to include naturopathic obstetricans in the bill.

345 DANIEL SISCO: Submits (EXHIBIT L) which asks the committee to cnsider an amendment to include naturopathic obstetricans in the bill.

382 JOHN RAMIG: 45 black infants in Multnomah County died last year, most of them because they lacked prenatal care.

TAPE 37, SIDE A

030 fr: Did Sacred Heart's insurance rates go up after they started their maternity program?

050 RAMIG: That iformation is not available because Sacred Heart became self-insured at that point so a comparison of rates would not be appropriate.

078 cs: Adjourns meeting at 5:40.

35fr: why should we do it, we can't delay it now. If let it go on. Why shouldn't it be reduced.