

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

Friday April 19, 1991 Hearing Room A 3:15 p.m. Tapes 70 -
71 MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Bill McCoy, Chair Sen. Cliff Trow, Vice
Chair Sen. Paul Phillips MEMBER EXCUSED: Sen. Shirley Gold Sen. Bill
Kennemer STAFF PRESENT: Janice J. Fiegenger, Committee Administrator
Mike Meriwether, Research Assistant Karen Edwards, Committee Assistant
Andra Woodrum, Page MEASURES CONSIDERED: SB 680 - Establishes program
for child care for children of adolescent children - PUBLIC HEARING/WORK
SESSION . 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 70, SIDE A

001 CHAIR BILL MCCOY calls the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

SB 680 - PUBLIC HEARING Witnesses: Barbara Ross, Department of Human
Resources Mary Bromel, Portland Public Schools Teen Parent Program Lynn
Stonehouse, West Albany High School Cherie Baker, Corvallis School
District Suzanne Gallagher, Coalition of Family Advocates Helen Dalton,
Oregon Citizens Alliance Patricia Williams, Parent-Child Services, Inc.

JANICE FIEGENER, COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR: Discusses SB 680. >Introduced
by the HB 3114 Task Force on adolescent pregnancy. > Asks for child care
for teen parents who are not receiving Aid to Dependent Children. >Would
also allocate money for new pilot programs for teen parents and the
Child Care Commission during the biennium. 016 BARBARA ROSS, DEPARTMENT
OF HUMAN RESOURCES: SB 680 calls for funds to be allocated from the
federal Child Care Block Grant Funds for services for teen parents. The
Department of Human Resources is involved in a planning process for
these funds. Submits written testimony (EXHIBIT A). Senate Committee on
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MARY BROMEL, PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEEN PARENT PROGRAM: Reads written
testimony in support of SB 680 (EXHIBIT B). Would like to recommend not
less than 2 million dollars be set aside for the non-welfare receiving
teen mothers in the state of Oregon.

099 SEN. PAUL PHILLIPS: As this concept has developed, what were some
of the objections?

BROMEL: Objections to developing day care for teen mothers?

SEN. PHILLIPS: Right.

BROMEL: There is a concern that if day care is provided in a school
building, we are reinforcing a belief that teenage pregnancy is
something that should be supported. This is not a moral issue. It is a
service that is needed to get young women back into school.

121 SEN. MCCOY: You mentioned you had 300 teen parents in the Portland
Public Schools. Is that an increase over the last school year? BROMEL:
At this time last year we had 165 young women enrolled in our program.

SEN. PHILLIPS: Do you have a large number of young women dropping out of
school because they are pregnant?

BROMEL: We are seeing a proportional increase of students who are staying in school. We focus on students staying in school, once the pregnancy is confirmed, to offer alternatives in completing their high school education.

SEN. PHILLIPS: Do you have any evidence or studies that would show that having this type of service would be a determining factor in not having an abortion or terminating the pregnancy?

ROSS: Has no evidence on that issue. The Portland School District did a review and found they had 41 students on a waiting list who could not get back into school because there was no child care.

178 LYNN STONEHOUSE, WEST ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL: Reads written testimony in support of SB 680 (EXHIBIT C).

204 CHERIE BAKER, CORVALLIS SCHOOL DISTRICT: Reads written testimony in support of SB 680 (EXHIBIT D). SB 680 can help all teen parents return to school and benefit.

SEN. McCOY: Miss Stonehouse, what are your goals after you graduate?

STONEHOUSE: Would like to attend a community college and start the paralegal program.

259 SEN. PHILLIPS: Was there a period of time in which you were out of school?

STONEHOUSE: Quit school at the age of 18. Returned at the age of 20.

SEN. PHILLIPS: Could you compare your grades prior to when you dropped out and after you Senate Committee on Human Resources April 19, 1991 - Page 3

returned to school?

STONEHOUSE: Had a C-D average before dropping out of school. Now has an A-B average.

285 SUZANNE GALLAGHER, COALITION OF FAMILY ADVOCATES: Reads written testimony in opposition to SB 680 (EXHIBIT E).

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001 GALLAGHER: Continues reading written testimony (EXHIBIT E:).

023 HELEN DALTON, OREGON CITIZENS ALLIANCE: Reads written testimony in opposition to SB 680 (EXHIBIT F).

071 SEN. PHILLIPS: We have unwed teenage pregnant women in school for one reason or another. SB 680 deals with the issue that there is a problem that has to be addressed. Without education, there is no chance to survive in our society. It is governments responsibility to educate children, all children.

170 GALLAGHER: We both believe that these individuals should finish school.

SEN. PHILLIPS: Did not necessarily hear you say that.

GALLAGHER: There are programs for handicapped students who cannot attend school. Someone from the school district goes to their home once a week for two hours. The district figures two hours of one on one tutoring is equal to five days of full-time school. These students are being educated on an out-patient basis.

SEN. PHILLIPS: In my mind, these individuals are not handicapped because they have had a child. Putting them out of sight does not necessarily remove the problem.

GALLAGHER: There are girls who will see this as a very positive means of finding self fulfillment. It has been shown that girls who have an illegitimate child once, will do so a second time.

204 SEN. PHILLIPS: Is familiar with students who have been around young women who have gotten pregnant and are turned off to the idea of having to accept that type of responsibility and having to miss school. It is no fun being a single parent. Do you believe this is a valid point?

GALLAGHER: No. More and more adolescents are becoming pregnant outside of marriage.

SEN. PHILLIPS: That is the root problem. That is not this problem.

GALLAGHER: If this program is put into place and we teach the remaining students abstinence, do not provide them with contraception and encourage them not to engage in sexual activity before marriage, the students who are in the schools that are pregnant are the schools that are pregnant are "examples" of behavior that is not positive. Do you think this program would phase out entirely if they would view these students on campus as being a negative influence? That is not where the attitude is. Senate Committee on Human Resources April 19, 1991- Page 4

They are continuing to participate in this behavior and taking a risk of ending up in that situation.

244 SEN. PHILLIPS: Does not think it will ever phase out. You could teach abstinence to every student, not everyone will accept it.

GALLAGHER: Why does government need to provide child care? Why not give tax credits to nonprofit organizations who can provide child care. The mother is the best care giver for her child.

SEN. PHILLIPS: The investment of three million dollars to keep individuals off of a public system and getting them educated where they can earn a living is a sound one.

303 GALLAGHER: Disagrees. Feels that is a difference in view point of what the role of government is. Believes the private sector is much more effective and efficient in providing social services to individuals.

SEN. PHILLIPS: YOU are looking at a situation where the object of government is to make sure everyone starts off equal. It is then up to the individual to take advantage of the opportunities given. This is an issue as to whether or not we are going to give them a chance to start off equal and become productive members of society.

GALLAGHER: If these young ladies continue their education by attending college, will they continue to receive child care? Is that not a part of SB 680 ?

SEN. PHILLIPS: That is part of SB 680. My concern is getting the students through high school. If you do not complete high school, it is over.

GALLAGHER: Agrees that the students should finish high school.

335 PATRICIA WILLIAMS' PARENT-CHILD SERVICES, INC.: Testifies in support of SB 680. Teen mothers become pregnant for many reasons. Would hate to see this type of support taken away from teen mothers.

TAPE 70, SIDE B

021 SEN. CLIFF TROW: One out of four births are to women who are unmarried. Whatever the reasoning is, programs that are being offered through SB 680 makes it possible for individuals who have children and do need the education to become independent. We have to deal with this reality.

SEN. PHILLIPS: Are you totally funded through state monies?

WILLIAMS: We are federally funded and receive private contributions.

SEN. PHILLIPS: Through corporate contributions or donations?

WILLIAMS: Individual contributions. , Senate Committee on Human Resources April 19, 1991-P4eS

SEN. PHILLIPS: Who is your largest contributor

WILLIAMS: The federal government.

044 BROMEL: Portland Public Schools has a contract with Parent-Child Services, Inc., to provide parent teen education to the teen parent program within the school district. It is paid for with general fund money from the school district's budget.

SEN. PHILLIPS: Could you tell me how much money you would receive from the federal Child Care Block Grant?

ROSS: We would receive 14 million dollars. The federal government does not request a match requirement. Oregon must submit a plan for the use of these funds.

SEN. PHILLIPS: Has that been submitted?

ROSS: That will be submitted to the Ways and Means Human Resources subcommittee in early May.

SEN. PHILLIPS: Refers to section four line 27. Has a problem sending SB 680 to the Ways and Means Committee. It has to do with setting apart part of the money with a given amount of \$60,000 to go to the Commission for Child Care. There should be a blank line placed there.

ROSS: If you want to delete that portion of SB 680, that would be an acceptable amendment.

069 SEN. PHILLIPS: Refers to section one, line five. Why are we setting aside 25 percent of available funds? Why did you pick the numbers that you did?

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