

**Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division**  
**March 10, 2005**  
**3:00 p.m. Room 123**  
**Chair, Senator John C. Hottinger**

Present:

Hottinger, Chair  
Bob Kierlin  
Gary Kubly  
Sandy Pappas  
Linda Scheid  
Dan Sparks  
Betsy Wergin

Absent:

Sean Nienow

Senator Hottinger called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.

A quorum was present.

**AGENDA ITEM #1: S.F. 907 (Hottinger) Establishing the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation**

- Senator Hottinger introduced the bill, which is a key bill to the Early Childhood Committee. Senator Kubly had the gavel.

MOTION: Senator Hottinger moved the A-1 Amendment

→ Passed

MOTION: Senator Pappas moved an oral Amendment, Page 1, Line 23, strike “at least 51” and insert “more than 50”

→ Passed

MOTION: Senator Kierlin moved an oral Amendment, Page 2, Line 14, strike “pilot” and after projects insert “, including pilot projects,”

→ Passed

- Rob Johnson, Senior Vice President, Cargill Corporation, supports early learning as a business initiative. Mr. Johnson noted there is a readiness gap, it is more cost-effective to close the gap at an early age than to try and catch up later, and MELF is a great strategy to close the readiness gap.
- Byron Laher, United Way, spoke about the need to have our children ready for school, and to be productive while in school.
- Zoe Nicholie, Ready 4 K, spoke about how high quality programs can close the readiness gap.
- Dr. Karen Effrem, Ed Watch, spoke to how early learning programs are not cost effective. Dr. Effrem also spoke about how the studies do not account for the downside of early education and care.
- Senator Hottinger gave closing comments to the committee about the bill. Sen. Hottinger said that this is a wonderful opportunity to help children interact with each other, as well as an opportunity to work with the private sector.

MOTION: Senator Hottinger moved that S.F. 907 be recommended to pass as amended, and to be included in the Omnibus Bill.

→ Passed

**AGENDA ITEM #2: S.F. 905 (Kubly) Providing for coordination of early care and education programs**

- Senator Kubly gave the introduction to the bill, providing that three state agencies coordinate their early childhood learning efforts. Sen. Hottinger had the gavel.

MOTION: Senator Kubly moved the A-1 Amendment.

→ Passed

- Zoe Nicholie, Ready 4 K, spoke about how too often services are not well coordinated or well advertised to parents. This bill can help.
- Cindy Toppin, Vice President, Lifetrack Resources, is frustrated by the current lack of coordination, and not having the input of early learning programs.

- Dr. Karen Effrem, Ed Watch, gave her grave concerns of dictating kids' lives. She stated that home visiting programs have the potential to violate 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights of unreasonable search and seizure.

MOTION: Senator Kubly moved S.F. 905 as amendment be laid over and recommended for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.


- Senator Wergin raised her concerns with the bill. She was unable to vote for it, because it does not have a voluntary feel for it, and her concerns of re-writing possible Medicaid legislation.

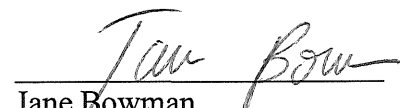
MOTION RENEWED

→ Passed.

Senator Hottinger adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Senator John C. Hottinger  
Division Chair

  
Jane Bowman  
Division Secretary

## **Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division**

Chair: Sen. John Hottinger

**Thursday, March 10, 2005**

3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Room 123 State Capitol

**S.F. 907-Hottinger:** Establishing the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation.

1. Rob Johnson, Senior Vice President, Cargill Corporation
2. Byron Laher, United Way
3. Zoe Nicholie, Ready 4 K
4. Dr. Karen Effrem, Ed Watch

**S.F. 905-Kubly:** Providing for coordination of early care and education programs.

1. Zoe Nicholie, Ready 4 K
2. Cindy Toppin, Vice President, Lifetrack Resources
3. Dr. Karen Effrem, Ed Watch

### Senate Committee Meeting Log

Committee Name: Early Childhood Education Policy & Budget Division  
Date: 3/10/05 Day: Thursday Start Time: 3:08

#### Agenda

Bill # (or Topic)	S.F. 907	Hettinger	
Author			
Short Descriptor			
Action(s)			
			Both bills: motion passed to
			lay bills over &
Bill # (or Topic)	S.F. 905	Kucy	consider them for
Author			the omnibus finance bill
Short Descriptor			
Action(s)			
Bill # (or Topic)			
Author			
Short Descriptor			
Action(s)			