

**Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division**  
**Thursday, March 31, 2005**  
**3:00 p.m. Room 318**  
**Chair, Senator John C. Hottinger**

Present:

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

Absent:

Senator Hottinger called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM #1: **S.F. 1374-Skoe:** Restoring funding for the basic community education program.

- Jackie Johnston, Director, Community Education, Fridley, urged the committee to restore funding.
- Steve Brisendine, Director, Community Education, Willmar, spoke to how the fees are up and as a result, attendance is down.

AGENDA ITEM #2: **S.F. 222-Skoglund:** Making four-year-old students eligible for extended time programs.

- Kathleen Watson, High 5 Teacher, said “when you get children [not ready for school] like that, our work is cut out for us in a way you don’t know.”
- Susan Greves-Libson, Director of Early Childhood programs in Minneapolis, said the outlook is grim. Ms. Greves-Libson said children need a boost, and this boost will build huge dividends in the end.
- Louis Sundin, Education Minnesota and Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, spoke about the goals of the MFT, namely “Kindergarten Plus.”
- Dr. Karen Effrem, emphasized that children are still capable of learning after the age of three, thus preschooling is not necessary.
- Lois Engstrom, Minnesota Association of Families and Early Learning, is supportive of the bill.

MOTION: The Chair moved that S.F. 222 be recommended to pass and re-referred to the K-12 Division.

→ Passed.

AGENDA ITEM #3: **S.F. 1826-Kierlin:** Allowing a credit for contributions to pre-kindergarten scholarship granting organizations.

- Sen. Kierlin gave a brief overview of the bill.
- Matt Massman, Senate Fiscal Analyst, answered questions from the committee.

MOTION: The Chair moved that S.F. 1826 be recommended to pass and re-referred to the Tax Committee.

→ Passed.

AGENDA ITEM #4: **S.F. 1365-Tomassoni:** Children mental health screenings and assessments.

MOTION: Senator Scheid moved the A2 Amendment.

→ Passed.

- Sue Abderholden, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Minnesota, explained the amendment. This bill came out of the Minnesota Mental Health Task Force, seeking to serve all Minnesotans. Ms. Abderholden spoke to how treatment is not giving medication.

- Andrea Ayers, Family and Children's Service, distributed and recognized her written testimony.
- Aileen DeMenge, Aitkin County Family Services Collaborative, gave an overview of the Aitkin County screening procedure. Ms. DeMenge never had a negative response from the screening process.
- Catherine Wright, Ramsey Action Program, spoke to how mental health is apart of a child's well-being. This program saves money. It is a holistic look at a child.
- Eva Neubeck, South High School, focused her testimony on truancy.

MOTION: Senator Wergin moved an Oral Amendment. Page 3, Line 7 insert: "(b)(1) The Socioemotional component of the developmental assessment may be included in the early childhood development screening if the parent or guardian has been provided with a clean written notice that this component of the screening is voluntary, and the parent or guardian has signed a document developed and approved by the commissioner either allowing or declining the socioemotional development component of the early childhood developmental screening."

→ Passed.

- Denise Herrmann, School Nurses of Minnesota, has concerns with quality and resources. Ms. Herrmann mentioned that screening is already an under-funded mandate.
- Nancy Schumacher, Citizen's Commission on Human Rights, spoke against the bill. Ms. Schumacher does not want the committee to be overzealous when referring children to mental health specialists.
- Dr. Karen Effrem, Ed Watch, spoke about how psycho-pharmacology is on the rise.

AGENDA ITEM #5: **S.F. 1853-Wergin:** Providing for early childhood family support.

MOTION: Sen. Wergin moved the A5 Amendment.

→ Passed.

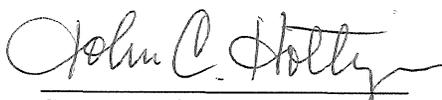
- Senator Wergin introduced the bill.
- Karen Carlson, Minnesota Department of Education, gave no formal testimony, but answered questions from the committee. This bill is the recommendation of the Governor.
- Dr. Karen Effrem, Ed Watch, gave her concerns with screening. Dr. Effrem spoke about how screening is inaccurate, subjective and labeling.

MOTION: Senator Hottinger moved to readopt lines 13 & 14, striking "standards," and inserting "guidelines."

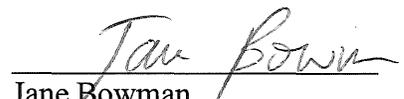
There was discussion on the motion, which was later withdrawn under the assumption that this language still needs work.

Senator Hottinger adjourned the meeting at 5:45 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 31, 2005**

3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Room 318 State Capitol

**S.F. 1374-Skoe:** Restoring funding for the basic community education program.

- Jackie Johnston, Director, Community Education, Fridley
- Steve Brisendine, Director, Community Education, Willmar

**S.F. 1826-Kierlin:** Allowing a credit for contributions to pre-kindergarten scholarship granting organizations.

**S.F. 222-Skoglund:** Making four-year-old students eligible for extended time programs.

- Jim Grathwol, Minneapolis Public Schools
- Lois Engstrom, MN Association of Families and Early Education
- Judy Covert, Fairbault Public Schools

**S.F. 1365-Tomassoni:** Children mental health screenings and assessments.

- Sue Abderholden, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Minnesota
- Aileen DeMenge, Aitkin County Family Services Collaborative
- Catherine Wright, Ramsey Action Program
- Andrea Ayers, Family and Children's Service
- Eva Neubeck, South High School
- Denise Herrmann, School Nurses of Minnesota
- Nancy Schumacher, Citizen's Commission on Human Rights
- Dr. Karen Effrem, Ed Watch

**S.F. 1792-Hottinger:** Consolidating the MFIP and basic sliding fee child care programs.

- Joel Kramer, Growth and Justice
- Zoe Nicholie, Ready 4 K

**S.F. 1853-Wergin:** Providing for early childhood family support.

- Karen Carlson, Minnesota Department of Education
- Mary Dooley Burns, St. Paul Public Schools, Family Education Department
- Dr. Karen Effrem, Ed Watch

## Senate Committee Meeting Log

Committee Name: Early Childhood Education Policy & Budget Division  
 Date: 3/31/05 Day: Thurs Start Time: 3:05

### Agenda

Bill # (or Topic)	SF 1374
Author	SKOE
Short Descriptor	See agenda
Action(s)	Laid over
Bill # (or Topic)	SF 1826
Author	KIERLIN
Short Descriptor	See agenda
Action(s)	SENT TO TAXES
Bill # (or Topic)	SF 222
Author	SKOGLUND
Short Descriptor	see agenda
Action(s)	SENT TO K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE
Bill # (or Topic)	SF 1365
Author	TAMASSONI
Short Descriptor	See agenda
Action(s)	<del>Amended</del> Laid over

SF 1853 - WERGIN  
 Descriptor: See agenda  
 Actions: Amended  
 Laid over.

S.F. 1792 - HOTTINGER  
 Not heard. Ran out  
 of time.