

Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division
February 24, 2005
3:00 p.m. Room 112
Chair, Senator John C. Hottinger

Present:

Hottinger, Chair
Bob Kierlin
Gary Kubly
Sean Nienow
Sandy Pappas
Betsy Wergin

Absent:

Linda Scheid
Dan Sparks

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

A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM #1: S.F. 949 (Lourey) Restoring funding for the Early Childhood Family Education program.

AGENDA ITEM #2: S.F. 673 (Hottinger) Restoring funding for Community Education Aid, School Readiness, Early Childhood Family Education, and Head Start Programs.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Testimony on both bills.

Head Start

- Tarryl Clark, Executive Director, Minnesota Community Action Association and Gayle Kelly, Executive Director, Minnesota Head Start Association, both applaud these bills.
- Julie Kicker, Parent, Ottertail-Wadena Community Action, gave a personal story of how Head Start helped her son.
- Yusuf Abdurahman, Parent, PICA, Minneapolis, gave a personal account of the notable difference between his oldest non-Head Start child and his youngest Head Start child.
- Rhonda Otteson, Parent, Heartland Community Action, was a single mother and going to college. Head Start greatly helped her efforts to stabilize and encourage her family.

School Readiness

- Mary Dooley Burns, St. Paul Public Schools, Family Education Department, gave an overview of perceptions and successes of School Readiness.
- Amal Abdi Jama, Parent, School Readiness, gave her personal story of how School Readiness helped her child.

Early Childhood Family Education

- Jesse Kao Lee, Parent, ECFE, is a Councilmember of Asian Pacific Minnesotans. Mr. Lee is supportive of this legislation, as it would have a positive impact on the Hmong Community.
- Kirk Schneidawind, Minnesota School Boards Association, said there are 341 school districts that support these bills.
- Bret Busse, Parent, ECFE, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School District, gave his story from a father's perspective.
- Glen and Carolina Olson and their 4 children, ECFE/Family Literacy, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District, told the committee of how these programs helped them.
- Adrian Pendelton, Teacher, ECFE, St. Paul and Tichina Smith, Parent, St. Paul Teen Parent Program, told of how these programs helped Tichina's child.
- Lori Ford, Coordinator of Early Childhood, Prior Lake-Savage School District and Kari Klima, Parent, ECFE, Prior Lake-Savage School District, gave her story of how she is a well-education woman, but clueless when it came to motherhood. ECFE programs helped her navigate motherhood.

Community Education Aid


- Mary O'Brien and Jack Tamble, Minnesota Community Education Association, spoke of their support for the bills.

Opposing

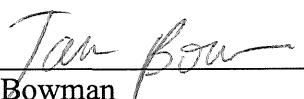
- Dr. Karen Effrem, Ed Watch, brought another side of the story. Ms. Effrem claimed these bills are faulty because the programs are based on flawed science, a false sense of crisis, the programs do not work, and there is potential harm to preschool programs.

Senator Hottinger adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Senator John C. Hottinger
Division Chair



Jane Bowman
Division Secretary

Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division

Chair: Sen. John Hottinger

Tuesday, February 24, 2005

3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Room 112 State Capitol

Ready 4 K Video

S.F. 673-Hottinger: Restoring funding for Community Education Aid, School Readiness, Early Childhood Family Education, and Head Start programs.

S.F. 949-Lourey: Restoring funding for the Early Childhood Family Education program.

Head Start

1. Tarryl Clark, Executive Director, Minnesota Community Action Association
Gayle Kelly, Executive Director, MN Head Start Association
2. Rhonda Otteson, Parent, Heartland Community Action
3. Julia Kicker, Parent, Ottertail-Wadena Community Action
4. Yusuf Abdurahman, Parent, PICA, Minneapolis

Community Education Aid

1. Mary O'Brien, Minnesota Community Education Association

School Readiness

1. Mary Dooley Burns, St. Paul Public Schools, Family Education Department
2. Amal Abdi Jama, Parent, School Readiness

Early Childhood Family Education

1. Jesse Kao Lee, Parent, ECFE
2. Kirk Schneidawind, Minnesota School Boards Association
3. Bret Busse, Parent, ECFE, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School District
4. Glen and Carolina Olson, Parents, ECFE/Family Literacy, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District
5. Adrian Pendelton, Teacher, ECFE, St. Paul
Tichina Smith, Parent, St. Paul Teen Parent program
6. Lori Ford, Coordinator of Early Childhood, Prior Lake-Savage School District
Kari Klima, Parent, ECFE, Prior Lake-Savage School District

Opposing Testimony

1. Dr. Karen Effrem, Ed Watch