



**Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division
Health and Human Services Budget Division**

March 14, 2006

9:00 a.m. Room 123

Chair, Senator John C. Hottinger

Chair, Senator Linda Berglin

Early Childhood Education Attendance

Present:

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

Absent:

Linda Scheid

Health and Human Services Attendance

Present:

Berglin, Chair
Leo Foley
Linda Higgins
Becky Lourey
Yvonne Solon
Paul Koering
Brian LeClair

Absent:

Julie Rosen

Senator Berglin called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM #1: Overview of three bills.

S.F. 2819-Hottinger: Child care modifications

Senator Hottinger introduced the bill; he walked the committees through the summary. Sen. Hottinger emphasized that Minnesota's children need this.

S.F. 3015-Berglin: TANF Funding

S.F. 3016-Berglin: TANF Funding.

Senator Berglin introduced her bills, they are very similar. Sen. Berglin spoke to how these bills are designed to overcome hardships in the existing TANF program.

Overview

- Ann Kaner-Roth, Executive Director, Child Care WORKS! and
- Beth Haney, Children's Defense Fund-MN, support the bill. Ms. Kaner-Roth spoke about the importance of affordable child care in Minnesota. Ms. Haney gave the committees an

updated summary of the report *Missed Opportunities*. Ms. Haney explained that when child care becomes more expensive, parents have fewer options for their children.

- Michelle Thole, MN Licensed Family Child Care Association, supports this bill. She spoke to the need for accredited child care centers in Minnesota.

Providers

- Erin Young, AFSCME, introduced the providers.
- Judy Massey, Vice President, Child Care Providers Together (CCPT), spoke to how the Governor's budget cuts were devastating to families. These bills will help the neediest Minnesotans.
- Donna Odea, CCPT, addressed the pay differential.
- Lisa Thompson, President, CCPT, spoke to the impact of child care provider rates, and how devastating it is that they are not higher. Income has stayed the same, but the unfunded mandates continue to grow.
- Rita Iacarella, SEIU Kids First, spoke to how we need affordable child care for the neediest families.

Parents

- Katie Williams, YWCA of Minneapolis, spoke on behalf of Talisha Mattson, who could not make it to the meeting. Ms. Mattson makes about \$18,000/yr, but her child care costs are \$10,000/yr. She recently made the decision to quit work (and go on welfare) to stay at home with her children.
- Tonya Pooler, parent, raises 2 children. She is a YWCA employee who cannot afford child care, but makes too much money to qualify for assistance.
- Trishalla Bell, Welfare Rights Coalition, and mother of two, spoke in support of these bills.

Other advocates


- Chad Dunkley, President, MN Child Care Association; CEO, New Horizon Academy, was saddened to have to close a facility in the Phillips neighborhood. Mr. Dunkley spoke about how early childhood centers are a real help to neighborhoods.
- Terri McNeil, Center Director for Children's Home Society & Family Services, spoke to how she recently implemented a scholarship program for students who recently lost their eligibility. Ms. McNeil spoke to how St. Paul College is picking up where the government is failing.
- Byron Laher, United Way, spoke about how we have the option to regain what we have lost.

At this point, the Early Childhood Education portion of the meeting ended.


- Angela Kahn, Welfare Rights Committee
- Deb Konechn, Welfare Rights Committee

Senator Berglin adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Senator John C. Hottinger
Division Chair



Jane Bowman
Division Secretary

Senate Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division
Senate Health and Human Services Budget Division

Chairs: Sen. John Hottinger and Sen. Linda Berglin

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Room 123 State Capitol

S.F. 2819-Hottinger: Child care modifications

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S.F. 3016-Berglin: TANF Funding.

Overview

- Ann Kaner-Roth, Executive Director, Child Care WORKS!
- Beth Haney, Children's Defense Fund-MN
- Michelle Thole, MN Licensed Family Child Care Association

Providers

- Rita Iacarella, SEIU Kids First
- Lisa Thompson, President, Child Care Providers Together (CCPT)
- Judy Massey, Vice President, CCPT
- Donna Odea, CCPT

Parents

- Talisha Mattson
- Cassandra Lyons
- Sally Lubrant
- Trishalla Bell

Other advocates

- Chad Dunkley, President, MN Child Care Association; CEO, New Horizon Academy
- Terri McNeil, Center Director for Children's Home Society & Family Services
- Byron Laher, United Way
- Angela Kahn, Welfare Rights Committee
- Deb Konechn, Welfare Rights Committee