



Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division
March 21, 2006
3:00 p.m. Room 123
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 3:05 p.m.

A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM #1: S.F. 3300-Robling: Governor's Early Childhood Proposal

Senator Robling introduced her bill, and introduced Commissioner Seagren.

MOTION: Senator Scheid moved the A-1 amendment.

Passed.

- Alice Seagren, Commissioner, Minnesota Dept. of Education, reiterated the goals of the Governor. The Department of Education stands ready to help early care and education.
- Karen Carlson, Director, Early Learning Services, Dept. of Education, gave a summary of the bill.
- Michele Weber, Director of Accountability and Program Improvement, Dept. of Education, gave a more detailed summary of the bill.
- Lauren Segal, President and CEO, Greater Twin Cities United Way, spoke to the importance of the underpinnings of the bill – education for our young children. Ms. Segal supports the bill.
- Chad Dunkley, President, MN Child Care Association; CEO, New Horizon Academy, thanked the Governor for supporting early care and education. Mr. Dunkley was disappointed that center-based providers were not included in the bill. However, he expressed that this is a good start.
- Gayle Kelly, Executive Director, Minnesota Head Start Association, also thanked the Governor for focusing on early care and education. Ms. Kelly was disappointed with the funding formula, because it is metro-centric.
- Cathy Arentsen, Vice President of Children and Family Program Services, Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties, is supportive of helping Minnesota's neediest families. She encouraged the group to raise income eligibility for MFIP, and to reduce case loads.
- Lois Engstrom, Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education, supports recognition of early childhood education. Ms. Engstrom wants to support parents, and this is a good investment in parents.
- Steve Kerr, Director, Minnesota Community Education Association, Anoka-Hennepin, spoke to the parts of the bill that impact community education. He also had some textual

recommendations for the bill. Mr. Kerr talked about his concerns regarding continuing de-funding.

- April Selenskikh, parent of 3, testified against the bill. She is concerned that the government is dominating parents' lives.
- Leilani Holmstadt, provider, also opposes S.F. 3300. Ms. Holmstadt argued that this was a state take-over of children's lives.
- Julie Quist, Ed Watch, objects to the bill. She labeled the bill as overreaching, paternalistic, and offensive.
- Tom Prichard, Minnesota Family Council, has concerns with the bill. Mr. Prichard does not like government regulation of child care, and he objects to the early childhood indicators of progress.

Commissioner Seagren gave closing words.

MOTION: Senator Pappas moved to hold this bill over for inclusion in the budget recommendation letter.

Passed.

AGENDA ITEM #2: **S.F. 3296-Hottinger:** NorthStar Quality Improvement and Rating System
Senator Hottinger gave a brief summary of the bill.

- Tammy Anderson, Director, Children's Corner Learning Center, fully supports the QRS bill, because of the focus on quality.
- Angela Hanson, Reaching for the Stars, supports the bill, because of the recognition of quality, standardization of expectations, and for the bonuses and retention language.
- Mary Szlaius, Owner/Director of Woodview Terrace Montessori, supports the bill because it prepares children for kindergarten.

Senator Hottinger adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Senator John C. Hottinger
Division Chair



Jane Bowman
Division Secretary

Senate Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division

Chair: Sen. John Hottinger

Tuesday, March 21, 2006

3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Room 123 State Capitol

AGENDA

S.F. 3300-Robling: Governor's Early Childhood Proposal

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- Karen Carlson, Director, Early Learning Services, Dept. of Education
- Michele Weber, Director of Accountability and Program Improvement, Dept. of Education
- Lauren Segal, President and CEO, Greater Twin Cities United Way
- Chad Dunkley, President, MN Child Care Association; CEO, New Horizon Academy
- Gayle Kelly, Executive Director, Minnesota Head Start Association
- Cathy Arentsen, Vice President of Children and Family Program Services, Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties
- Lois Engstrom, Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education
- Steve Kerr, Director, Minnesota Community Education Association, Anoka-Hennepin
- April Selenskikh, parent
- Leilani Holmstadt, provider
- Julie Quist, Ed Watch
- Tom Prichard, Minnesota Family Council

S.F. 3296-Hottinger: NorthStar Quality Improvement and Rating System

- Todd Otis, President, Ready 4K
- Nancy Johnson, Director of Public Policy, Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association
- Ann McCully, Executive Director, MN Child Care Resource and Referral Agency
- Mary Szlaius, Owner/Director of Woodview Terrace Montessori
- Tammy Anderson, Director, Children's Corner Learning Center
- Dr. Kathryn Tout, Director, Applied Research in Early Care & Education, Child Trend
- Steve Kerr, Minnesota Community Education Association
- Angela Hanson, Reaching for the Stars
- Byron Laher, Director of Public Policy, Greater Twin Cities United Way
- Scott McConnell, Director of CEED - University of Minnesota
- Julie Quist, Ed Watch