

Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division

April 11, 2006

3:00 p.m. Room 107

Chair, Senator John C. Hottinger

Present:

John 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 3:15 p.m.

A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM #1: **S.F. 3760-Hottinger:** Discussion of the creation of a legislative commission to draft a plan to end poverty by 2020.

Senator Hottinger introduced the bill. The bill was not formally before the Committee, but Sen. Hottinger explained he wished to offer it as an amendment to the Division bill in the Finance Committee.

MOTION: Senator Hottinger moved to orally review the bill with the following changes in the language of S.F. 3760.

Lines 1.5 and 1.6 after "poverty" add "in Minnesota" and

Line 1.18 add health"y."

The Division agreed.

- Father John Estrem, Archdiocese of Minneapolis/St. Paul & Catholic Charities, representing Archbishop Harry Flynn, spoke to a misguided public perception of poverty. There are 37 million people living in poverty.
- Brian Rusche, Executive Director, Joint Religious Legislative Commission, supported the legislation. Mr. Rusche is hopeful this commission will put poverty back on peoples' radar screens.
- Rev. Nancy Maeker, St. Paul Synod of the ELCA, is hopeful for a poverty free Minnesota.
- Michael Dahl, MN Coalition for the Homeless, added that most people who are homeless are children. In order to stop homelessness, we need to have livable wages, affordable housing, and acknowledgement of racism in homelessness.
- Doug Fountain, X Committee, also spoke to the misconception of poverty. Mr. Fountain is a single dad and homeless. The X Committee is a group of homeless people trying to help homeless people.
- Carole Spektor, Children's Defense Fund, spoke in favor of the bill.
- Marcia Avner, MN Council of Non-Profits, represents many human services organizations that would love to see this commission funded. These organizations want to address systemic problems in poverty.
- Nan Madden, MN Budget Project, talked about the importance of policy choices.

MOTION: Senator Hottinger moved that the contents of S.F. 3760 to be referred to Finance as an amendment to the Early Childhood Division Omnibus Bill.

Passed.

AGENDA ITEM #2: **Minnesota Early Learning Foundation:** Discussion of membership to the board of directors.

- Todd Otis, Ready 4 K, is supportive of diversifying the MELF Board. Mr. Otis has concerns about having legislators on the Board.
- Senator Hottinger spoke to not needing a vote on this issue; he is simply trying to get a glimpse of where committee members are.

AGENDA ITEM #3: **S.F. 2679 -Pappas:** Ramsey County child care pilot project.

Senator Pappas introduced the bill; it would streamline state and local programs that help young mothers trying to complete high school.

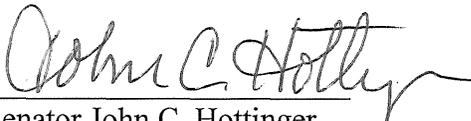
- Toni Carter, Ramsey County Commissioner, spoke to how this bill would be a small tweak to help governments work together.
- Shannon Kennedy, Ramsey County, spoke to the specifics of the bill.
- Mave Clifford, student at Agape High, appreciates opportunities for her and her child, Destiny, but the paperwork is too burdensome.
- Victoria Stein, Agape High, likes having her child, Donna, in child care at her school. However, the paperwork was so time-consuming that she missed two weeks of school due to late filings.
- Sue Will and Lorna Payne, Nurses at Agape, were also present and in support of the legislation.

MOTION: Senator Pappas moved S.F. 2679 to move to Finance and be incorporated into the Early Education Omnibus Bill.

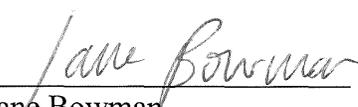
Passed.

Senator Hottinger adjourned the meeting at 5:00 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, April 11, 2006

3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Room 107 State Capitol

AGENDA

S.F. 3760-Hottinger: Creation of a legislative commission to draft a plan to end poverty by 2020

- Father John Estrem, Archdiocese of Minneapolis/St. Paul & Catholic Charities
- Brian Rusche, Executive Director, Joint Religious Legislative Commission
- Michael Dahl, MN Coalition for the Homeless & Doug Fountain, X Committee
- Carole Specktor, Children's Defense Fund
- Marcia Avner, MN Council of Non-Profits & Nan Madden, MN Budget Project

S.F. 2679 -Pappas: Ramsey County child care pilot project.

- Toni Carter, Ramsey County Commissioner

Minnesota Early Learning Foundation: Discussion of membership to the board of directors.

- Todd Otis, Ready 4 K