

1999 SENATE EDUCATION

SCR 4037

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR4037

Senate Education Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 24, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		0-1358
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Jenda Christman</i>			

Minutes:

SENATOR FREBORG opened the hearing on SCR4037. SENATOR REDLIN was absent.

SENATOR W. STENEHJEM, District 42, opened testimony on SCR4037. I introduced SCR4037 at the request of Jonathan Sickler, Student Body President of UND and also the voting student member of the board of higher education. Timely to study the provision of student health services. Health services are provided by student fees. Concern with the rise of costs, the provision of the services is becoming increasing difficult for the students.

No written testimony.

SENATOR FREBORG : What is basic student health services consist of?

SENATOR STENEHJEM: The kinds of services that they provide at the student health services at the universities, they don't do specialized treatment, as they don't have the staff for it. They do minor types of things.

SENATOR FREBORG : Is it kind of like the doctor of the day.

SENATOR STENEHJEM: They do have a doctor who works there full time, nursing staff and they do prescriptions, equipment to do varies kinds of tests. More serious types of things are referred.

SENATOR KELSH : The student fees normally go to pay for the services. Is there a problem that the fees aren't offering enough service, there needs to be some state dollars to help to expand the service.

SENATOR STENEHJEM: I think these are the kinds of things that the study would look at, a good exploration of all of the different aspects would be something the study would look at.

Testimony in Favor: Jason Bernhardt, North Dakota Student Association. Written testimony attached.

SENATOR COOK : The student was to get strep throat, is that something that they could go to clinic on campus and have treated.

Jason: Several examples. I attend UND and because we have the medical school there we have access to full time full fledged doctors. So if I got strep throat and went there that is something they could diagnose and provide cheaper medicine. If you were going to Mayville State, you would go to the nurse and she would tell you yes you are sick and she would send you to the doctor downtown. It varies from campus to campus. The reason it is so extensive at UND is because we pay \$67 a semester and because we have the medical school there. The reason it is so poor at Mayville State is because they don't have access to those doctors and their nurse comes in I believe from 9-noon on Mon, Wed, and Friday. She can only treat you with over the

counter medicines.

SENATOR COOK : If you have strep throat and you go to the clinic you get the medicine, do you pay the bill.

Jason: Yes, the students at Mayville State they pay I believe \$12 a semester. But they only get three visits to the doctors office and after that then you pay the bill out of your own pocket, but otherwise it is free except for medicines. You have to pay for your own medicines.

SENATOR COOK : If the student was my son would that bill be covered with the health insurance that I have that covers him.

Jason: I don't believe so. At UND I don't believe health insurance covers anything like that, unless you went to a private clinic.

SENATOR FLAKOLL : Can you tell me if the majority of student visits are based upon I assume, like cold, cough, flu. Some fertility related situations that they want to check out. What are the most common reasons for going to the campus clinic.

Jason: Simple cold, cough, flu, rape kits and HIV testing. Nothing major.

Jason: I have a letter from Jonathan Sickler, UND Student Body President. I would like to read this letter to the committee. Written letter attached.

Close hearing on SCR4037.

SENATOR KELSH : Since this is a study I would think the concerns that SENATOR COOK and SENATOR WANZEK had about insurance would be addressed. It certainly would be worthy to look into the possibility of health insurance that their parents have, I am assuming most of the students are still under could be used. Seems odd to me that the health insurance is not being used.

SENATOR COOK : I agree with SENATOR KELSH . I was even wondering if we needed a where as in there that addressed health insurance issues. But I think maybe one of the reasons is the issue of confidentiality.

SENATOR FREBORG : I assume that if this becomes a study that someone on this committee will be on the interim committee. We could certainly make sure that the health insurance issue is included.

SENATOR FLAKOLL : If they would increase the services and duties they perform, how that might affect the university and the state's liability related to any procedures that are done or failed to do or of that nature.

SENATOR COOK : I move a DO PASS on SCR4037.

SENATOR WANZEK : 2nd

Vote: 6 Yes 0 No 1 Absent

CARRIER: SENATOR KELSH

Date: 2/24/99
Roll Call Vote #: _____

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4037

Senate EDUCATION Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Move for Do Pass on SCR 4037

Motion Made By Cook Seconded By Wanzek

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Freborg, Chairman	✓				
Senator Cook, Vice Chairman	✓				
Senator Flakoll	✓				
Senator Wanzek	✓				
Senator Kelsh	✓				
Senator O'Connell	✓				
Senator Redlin					

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Kelsh

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 24, 1999 2:06 p.m.

Module No: SR-33-3462
Carrier: Kelsh
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4037: Education Committee (Sen. Freborg, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4037 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

1999 HOUSE EDUCATION

SCR 4037

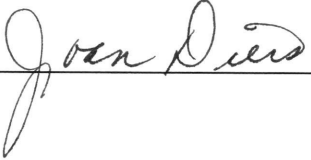
1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4037

House Education Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 3-15-99

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
Tape # 1	x		24.6 to 40.8
Tape #2-action	x		13.3 to 17.2
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes:

Chairman R Kelsch , Vice Chair Drovdal , Rep Brandenburg , Rep Brusegaard , Rep Haas , Rep Johnson , Rep Nelson , Rep Nottestad , Rep L Thoreson , Rep Grumbo , Rep. Hanson , Rep. Lundgren , Rep. Mueller , Rep. Nowatzki , Rep. Solberg .

Chairman R Kelsch : We will open the hearing on SCR 4037 and ask the clerk to read the title.

Rep Poolman: The resolution directs the legislative council basic health services under the control of state board of higher education at institutions. The reason this study was introduced on behalf of student government at UND. The health fee paid by the students has risen by about twenty per cent in the past three years. Why does the health cost vary so much on all the colleges and universities. Look to other ways to fund the health services and why the costs are rising.

Rep. Lundgren : Do you have any idea what the alternative funding might be?

Poolman: I don't, but the way I look at it there could be potential public/private partnerships and UND is a prime example. Having a medical school right there has the potential to reduce cost. Every city that has a institution of higher education could forge those partnerships with their local hospital.

Rep Grumbo : Do they at the larger institutions have full time medical services?

Poolman : I know that UND does. I can't speak for all eleven schools. We should compare the two larger institutions, but I'm sure they have full time services.

Jason Bernhardt, N.D. Student Assoc. : testified in support of this resolution. (See attached testimony)

Rep. Lundgren : You mentioned that there's a doctor full time on staff at NDSU and UND, while other schools use nurses and only call doctors as needed. Could those two schools do like the others and cut costs?

Jason : I can tell you at UND why they have full time doctors is because they have students from the medical school who are just about graduated. In the smaller institutions, we'd like to see a doctor from the local hospital get involved in the university. We'd like to see consistency among the universities. That's what the students expressed at our last meeting, because there is such a difference now.

Rep Brusegaard : Do you know how many students are covered by their parents or have their own insurance?

Jason : In N.D. it's required that you have insurance when you attend an institution of higher learning. It is a unique thing.

Rep Brusegaard : If you have insurance, then why would you go to a nurse at the university health center?

Jason : When you use your insurance, your premiums go up. If you have services at your disposal, that are free to you, you will use them for simple medical problems.

Rep Brusegaard : Wouldn't that also hold true that the more you use your university health services, the cost of that will go up?

Jason : You are only allowed a certain number of visits. Not like you can keep going back for a ton of times.

Rep Nelson : In your opinion, if we were to move to one system, which one would you use. Like the one at the major universities or the system the smaller universities use?

Jason : I'd like to see a compromise. At UND they have three full time doctors on staff and a couple of nurses. I'm sure NDSU is probably the same. I don't know that UND needs three. Some smaller schools may need a doctor more.

Rep Nottestad : What would you do if you have to charge more fee service if you change to a compromise?

Jason : At UND if they were to increase our health fees, they would ask the student body whether they want an increase or not. The students would have the ultimate say. This resolution was brought to our attention by the smaller schools. The smaller institutions were concerned that a UND student can have access to a full time doctor any time I want. They on the other hand, if they are very ill, have to take the cost out of their pocket.

Rep L Thoreson : Does the student government at the individual colleges have any input as to the type of health care they prefer? Who establishes that kind of program?

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House Education Committee

Bill/Resolution Number Scr 4037

Hearing Date 3-15-99

Jason : At UND, the vice-president of student outreach services establishes the type of medical care that you can receive at our medical center. I'm not sure at the other schools, but I think it is an administration personal that decides. The end decision still lies in the students.

Rep L Thoreson : Doesn't it make sense for each of these colleges to have more local control over what they want to do with their student health services, then the legislature telling them?

Jason : The students do want to see local control, but they also want to see legislative support. Especially financial support. As you know, there are 40,000 students in N.D. and there is power in numbers. It's cheaper, when you have a large number of people, to go with public employees insurance. We'd like to see something like this.

Chairman : Any more testimony in support; anyone wishing to testify against? Hearing none, we'll close this hearing.

(Later in the day action was held) 13.3--17.2 Chairman : What are committee wishes?

ACTION: Rep. Lundgren made a motion of DO NOT PASS and Vice Chair Drovdal seconded the motion.

Discussion was held : 14.4--16.3

ROLL CALL VOTE: 10 YES and 5 NO with 0 ABSENT. PASSED. Rep. Lundgren will carry the bill.

Date: 3-15-99
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4037

House Education Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By Sundgren Seconded By Drovdal

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. ReaAnn Kelsch-Chairperson		✓	Rep. Dorvan Solberg	✓	
Rep. David Drovdal-Vice Chair	✓				
Rep. Michael D. Brandenburg	✓				
Rep. Thomas T. Brusegaard	✓				
Rep. C. B. Haas	✓				
Rep. Dennis E. Johnson	✓				
Rep. Jon O. Nelson	✓				
Rep. Darrell D. Nottestad		✓			
Rep. Laurel Thoreson		✓			
Rep. Howard Grumbo	✓				
Rep. Lyle Hanson	✓				
Rep. Deb Lundgren	✓				
Rep. Phillip Mueller		✓			
Rep. Robert E. Nowatzki		✓			

Total (Yes) 10 No 5

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sundgren

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 15, 1999 3:36 p.m.

Module No: HR-46-4826
Carrier: Lundgren
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4037: Education Committee (Rep. R. Kelsch, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (10 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4037 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

1999 TESTIMONY

SCR 4037



North Dakota Student Association

SCR 4037

Testimony – Jason Bernhardt, North Dakota Student Association

February 24, 1999

Good morning Mr. Chair and members of the committee, my name is Jason Bernhardt and I represent the North Dakota Student Association. The North Dakota Student Association is comprised of student leaders from the eleven publicly funded institutions of higher education in North Dakota.

Health benefits and their funding have been an important topic during this legislative session. However, the discussion has been limited to that of public employees. Students are excited to hear that SCR 4037 can possibly expand that discussion to student health services. Yet, students do understand that all this resolution does is request research into the area of maintenance and funding of student health services.

We all know that health costs are rising out of proportion to inflation and other costs and students are left to carry the burden of this increased cost at their respective institution. Health costs and benefits vary from school to school. They range from Valley City State University's \$8 a semester access to a nurse from 9:00 to noon on weekdays to UND's \$67.00 a semester cost that provides students with access to full time doctors and nurses from 8:00 to 4:30 daily as well as reduced medicine costs. One constant remains, though, and that is the fact that students are paying more and getting less. Where campuses will not raise their student fees, students have less access to health services or when services are maintained, fees rise.

Not that long ago, the state provided funding for student health services across all campuses and students are very interested in seeing this again. However, regardless of rising costs and fees, students at least feel this topic is well worth the legislative council's time to take the first step by researching it. Therefore, the students of North Dakota's public higher education institutions favor and encourage you to approve SCR 4037. We thank you for your consideration and support of higher education in North Dakota and it's students. Thank you Mr. Chair and members of the committee for this opportunity to present you with the student's point of view on this important resolution.

OFFICE OF STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT
MEMORIAL UNION
P.O. BOX 8385
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA 58202-8385
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FAX (701) 777-6235

February 23, 1999

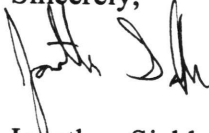
Members of the Senate Education Committee:

The Swenson Student Health Services are an important component of student services at the University of North Dakota. Students at UND have recently invested a considerable amount of student fees for the remodeling of the Student Health facilities. These outstanding facilities combined with caring and knowledgeable doctors, nurses, and support personnel lead to quality treatment.

However, as in the general population, the rising cost of medical care is a great threat to that service. Our current fee stands at \$67.00 per semester. We have increased our student health fee by approximately 20% in the past three years. Student Health administrators fear that further substantial fee increases will be needed just to maintain current service.

In the recent past, state funding has paid for student health services on North Dakota university and college campuses. Perhaps the time has come for the state to enter into a partnership with students concerning student health funding. I fully support SCR 4037 so that the possibility of state funding for a portion of student health services may be examined.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Sickler, President
UND Student Body



North Dakota Student Association

SCR 4037

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