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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

3045

2001 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HCR 3045

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3045

House Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 19, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
Tape 1	X		2550 to 4700
Tape 1 (Committee Work)		X	0 to 1100
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Corinne Easton</i>			

Minutes:

Chairman Price, Vice Chairman Devlin, Rep. Doseh, Rep. Galvin, Rep. Klein, Rep. Pollert, Rep. Porter, Rep. Tieman, Rep. Weiler, Rep. Weisz, Rep. Cleary, Rep. Metcalf, Rep. Niemeier, Rep. Sandvig

Chairman Price: Open hearing on HCR 3045.

Rep. Sandvig: Presented Resolution. (See written testimony.) I have always thought that we should be paying parents for staying home and taking care of their children instead of the state subsidizing day care, and this program appealed to me. I was going to introduce a bill, but decided to go with a study resolution instead. I have some handouts for you on the program. Please give this study resolution a DO PASS recommendation so we can look at alternatives to sending out kids to day care.

Rep. Weiler: On line 10 it says "proponents of the Minnesota law contend that paying parents to care for their children at home.....". Do you think it is a good idea for the state to pay the parent to actually do their job to stay home and take care of their children?

Rep. Sandvig: These parents would be sending their kids to day care if they weren't staying home. It is only 75% of what they would get for sending their kids to day care, and they have to be actively looking for a job, have been in school, or working at the time they became pregnant. If they weren't in this program, they would be getting state subsidization. Instead they are getting 75% of what they would get if they put their child in the day care.

Rep. Porter: In the statement on line 6 talking about 12 hours a day, 7 days a week - for the market value it is \$36,000 annually. If the average North Dakota wage earner is right around \$22,000 a year for 40 hours a week of a full-time job, where did you come up with the figures and people working 7 days a week rather than the normal five.

Rep. Sandvig: The Legislative Council got that figure. I'm assuming it is based on the amount of time and care that it actually takes to take care of a child. There is a lot of work at being a parent.

Rep. Porter: So based on what you are stating in this, we would actually be paying people more to stay at home than they would be able to earn in the work place if our average wage is \$22,000. This is saying we would be paying them 75% of \$36,000?

Rep. Sandvig: No, it is not. That is not the figure it would be based on. They would be getting 75% of what they would be getting for sending a child to day care - what they would be subsidized by the state for sending their child to day care. It is mostly for the working poor families.

Chairman Price: So if the state reimburses, for example, at a \$1.25 an hour for the first child then the state would reimburse the stay at home parent 75% of the \$1.25 for an average day.

Rep. Sandvig: That is what I understand.

Vice Chairman Devlin: As a follow up to Rep. Porter's question, you're basing this on 84 hours a week instead of 40. Seven days times 12?

Rep. Sandvig: That could be where they got the figure, I don't know for sure.

Rep. Klein: Is this per child?

Rep. Sandvig: It is for one child. If they have more than one child at home, they don't get paid any extra. But it allows them to stay home and take care of their other children. Some of the hand outs explain the rates and things like that.

Rep. Cleary: It should be 24 hours a day.

Rep. Weisz: I assume the \$36,000 was merely to show how valuable the services are of the stay at home parent. You may a comment that you are looking at paying for one child. In other words, if they are in state subsidized child care and they are getting paid for three kids but even under this proposal they would only get 75% of the first kid. The other additional children wouldn't qualify for any in home assistance, is that correct?

Rep. Sandvig: That is correct.

Rep. Klein: What is the incentive going to be to go out and look for a job if they are getting paid to stay home. Explain the dollar amount? Does that mean you are going to make them take this job, or that say "no, I need \$7.50 an hour". Can you explain that concept?

Rep. Sandvig: They have to be looking for work or have had to have been working when the child was born. They are not staying home to get paid, they are taking a break from work to be home for a little while with the child. The state is paying more out for the child to be in day care.

Chairman Price: Rep. Klein, the Minnesota Bill is in here as introduced. It is for children under the age of one, and it also says the family is limited to 12 months of assistance per child, and other things are in here.

Rep. Weiler: On line 13 and 14 it talks about the shortages of day care that we have in the state. How can we take care of that problem, maybe without doing what this is recommending? If there a law in having so many day cares in a certain area?

Rep. Sandvig: There is just a shortage of people going into day care now days. Some of the low payments they get are the reason for it.

Rep. Weiler: So it is basically the money the day care is getting in return now is the problem for the shortages?

Rep. Sandvig: One of the problems is finding day care for small infants. It costs much more for them to be taken care of.

Barb Arnaldson: I represent North Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children. There is a huge shortage of day care providers. Infant care is really hard to come by if you are a parent. The reason for it is because it is the ratio - you have to have one adult for every four babies. The older they get, ages three and four, you can have one to eight ratio. We're in favor of this bill. Not only is there shortages in day care and we can't serve all the parents that need it, but primarily because we feel the need for bonding and attachment is really important for the child and parent. The reality is that is not what happens. We have working parents out there, and in North Dakota we are in the top five states that have working parents of children under the age of six. The recent data was 69% of all working parents. We can't take care of them. This is a good idea, not only for bonding and attachment, but we're looking at a specific population here and I see John Hougen is here and he could talk to you about the number of families participating

in the child care assistance program. These are parents that care givers look at as "at risk". They are in low wage jobs, there is a high turn over rate in their own work, but they also need a lot of parenting skills. Would we would see if this is actually studied is the possibility of linking parenting classes along with.

Rep. Pollert: When we had our children, my wife and I made the financial agreement that she would not work until the kids got to be two or three years old. Has the mood in the state for parents changed to where they now want to have the state subsidize these programs? Shouldn't it be the parent's responsibility. That is what we had to do and I still think that is the right way to go?

Barb Arnaldson: You are right. I am a part time worker, but we realize with our income that we don't have the boats, snowmobiles. What we're seeing is that a lot of farm families that are needing dual incomes now. Some parents don't necessarily want to chose to go to work, but many of them do. I would say that is there was a way to make it on one income, I would think they would want to. It isn't always an option for the parent. My family is lucky to have that choice, but there is a huge number of single parents out there, a huge number of very poor working families that don't have a choice.

John Hougén: Director of Public Assistance, Department of Human Services. (See written testimony.) I am taking a neutral stand. North Dakota's child care program is funded with the federal Child Care Development Fund. The state fiscal contribution to this program is the maintenance of effort requirement to draw down the federal money. Assistance through the Child Care Development Fund must go towards providing child care for families working and/or going to school. Funding for the proposed program would have to come from a source other than the Fund.

Chairman Price: What you're saying is that we would be on all state dollars unless you find something you are not aware of?

John Hougen: Minnesota is funded with state funds.

Chairman Price: Close hearing on HCR 3045.

COMMITTEE WORK:

Chairman Price: Rep. Tieman.

Rep. Tieman: I make a motion DO NOT pass.

Rep. Weller: Second.

Chairman Price: Discussion:

Rep. Niemeler: I think this concept is a wonderful support of family values. The linker is that the child care monies can't be used to pay for this type of a program. I still would oppose a DO NOT PASS hoping there would be some other funding sources.

Rep. Cleary: I suppose there is a match with federal funds?

Chairman Price: There wouldn't be for this.

Rep. Calvin: I think this is a good concept. It would be better for the children at home, but on the other hand a lot of room for manipulation.

Rep. Sandvig: Mr. Hogan said in the year 2000 we spent over \$2,000,000 in state money on child care. That is our state share. If we spend that kind of money for kids to be taken care of out of the home, it makes sense to me that we can look at this.

Rep. Metcalf: This is a study resolution and we don't want to try to study at this particular time, but I can see the benefits of a child taken care of its mother at home. I've also seen where that child would have been a lot better off in a day care center.

Chairman Price: In U.S. Today the IQ of the mother, if she stays home with the child, plays in greatly with the success of the child.

Rep. Welsz: I have some real issues with paying to take care of your own kids, but in reality these kids aren't going to be at home regardless. If this will encourage parents to be home with their kids it is almost always a good thing. Being that we subsidized child care dollars anyway, we should take a look at this.

Rep. Niemeler: The money angle is going to be a trade off. It is a shift in the money and less expensive shift.

Rep. Sandvig: If they had other children, those kids would also be out of the day care.

Rep. Pollert: Seems to me this a paradigm shift, that the parents are going from what they think is best for the child to what can I financially do that is better for the family.

Chairman Price: Will the clerk call a roll on a DO NOT PASS.

7 YEAS, 7 NAYS, 0 ABSENT

Rep. Niemeler: I move a DO PASS.

Rep. Cleary: Second.

8 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 0 ABSENT

CARRIED BY REP. CLEARY

Date: 2-19-01
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HR 3045

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee on _____

or

Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DO NOT PASS (Tule)

Motion Made By Tieman Seconded By Rep. Weiler
Rep. Porter

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price - Chairman		✓	Audrey Cleary		✓
William Devlin - V. Chairman	✓		Ralph Metcalf		✓
Mark Dosch	✓		Carol Niemeier		✓
Pat Galvin		✓	Sally Sandvig		✓
Frank Klein	✓				
Chet Pollert	✓				
Todd Porter	✓				
Wayne Tieman	✓				
Dave Weiler	✓				
Robin Weisz		✓			

Total (Yes) 7 No 7

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 2-19-01
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3045

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee on _____

or

Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By Rep. Niemeier Seconded By Rep. Cleary

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price - Chairman	✓		Audrey Cleary	✓	
William Devlin - V. Chairman	✓		Ralph Metcalf	✓	
Mark Dosch		✓	Carol Niemeier	✓	
Pat Galvin	✓		Sally Sandvig	✓	
Frank Klein		✓			
Chet Pollert		✓			
Todd Porter		✓			
Wayne Tieman		✓			
Dave Weiler		✓			
Robin Weisz	✓				

Total (Yes) 8 No 6

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Rep. Cleary

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 19, 2001 4:36 p.m.

Module No: HR-30-3922
Carrier: Cleary
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3045: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(8 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3045 was placed on the
Tenth order on the calendar.

2001 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HCR 3045

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3045

Senate Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 14, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	29.4
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Paul Holodyschuk</i>			

Minutes:

The hearing was opened on HCR 3045.

REPRESENTATIVE SALLY SANDVIG, Sponsor, introduced bill. (Written testimony)

\$2,075,104. State funds being spent on child care. SENATOR MATHERN: In the case of quality child care, would these homes have some kind of inspection. REP. SANDVIG: There is no home inspection; some parenting skills classes. SENATOR KILZER: What are the ages of the children? REP. SANDVIG: Under the age of 1 year. There are no Federal funds. Other testimony was presented from providers.

BARB ARNOLD-TENGESDAL, ND Assoc., Education of Young Children, supports the resolution (Written testimony)

EARLEEN FRIEZ, Licensed Family Child Care, supports resolution. (Written testimony)

Neutral position.

