

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1320

2007 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1320

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. **HB 1320**

House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: **30 January 2007**

Recorder Job Number: **2265 and 2293**

Committee Clerk Signature

Jan Prindle

Minutes

Representative Phil Mueller, District 24, introduced the bill. **(Testimony Attached.)**

Representative Kathy Hawken, District 46, testified on behalf of the bill. Many of you are well aware that I am passionate about early childhood education. Information overwhelmingly supports that the children who have early opportunities to learn are more excited to be in school as they are prepared.

Sharon Hanson, director of Early Childhood Center in Dickinson, testified in favor of the bill. **(Testimony Attached.)**

Representative Haas: It surprises me the number of kids eligible for Head Start that are not being serviced. Why is that? What are your screening criteria?

Hanson: We have not had an increase in federal funding for 6 years. The needs have always been greater than what we can provide. Every program ranks their eligible criteria. I only gave you the number of children that were poverty eligible. There are other children on the wait list that barely miss the income guidelines. Those are the children that are risk. Those are the parents that can't afford anything else for their kids. We have not had opportunity for expansion so we have no other alternative. Families with money are enrolling their children in pre-school programs even if they are stay at home mothers.

Representative Haas: If there were additional funds, would you immediately take those 55

income eligible into the program and then go beyond to take some that have need, but not based on income.

Hanson: We can take 10% of children who are over income. We maxed that out.

Representative Wall: Do the early gains you realize from pre-school level out and the students start to struggle on or do they carry on.

Hanson: There has been a lot of follow up and these children are more likely to graduate from high school, find work and make \$30,000 per year than their counterparts. They are the kids that enter the workforce and have the skills they need. Even inflation adjusted, it was found there was a 16% return for every dollar invested when those kids were three. When children are 3 years of age, their brain is 2.5 times more active than ours.

Barb Arnold-Tengesdal, ND Association for the Education of Young Children, testified in favor of the bill. **(Testimony Attached.)**

JoAnn Brager, director of West River Head Start, testified in favor of the bill. **(Testimony Attached.)**

Chairman Kelsch: The way the bill is written would the program in Mandan be able to be a pilot project. Would it restrict it from participating or setting up the pilot project. Would it put into jeopardy any of your federal funding?

Brager: We have set up a pilot project. There is a waiting list in Beulah and Hazen and where it's needed. I have talked to people about setting up pilot programs there. This would be wonderful way to blend Head Start funding with state pre-kindergarten funding. State funding would only enhance the dollars we have in order to serve more children and perhaps a different set of children in need. We have room.

Representative Mueller: You referenced the counties in which you working and they are some of the highest income counties in the state. Do you still have people who are in need of these services?

Brager: Yes, we have families that make less than \$20.0 per year for a family of four. We have families in dire need out there. We could simply serve those children.

Representative Hunskor: Do you see pre-kindergarten and Head Start functioning in a common setting with both programs working together in one room?

Brager: In my four counties I would like to see a blended program; but it would not have to be set up that way.

Dave Steckler, principal of Mary Stark Elementary School in Mandan, testified in favor of the bill. (Testimony Attached.)

Del Quigley, principal of Lincoln Elementary School in Dickinson, testified in favor of the bill.

Representative Haas: How did you fund the 3-week program you presented? How did you do the screening?

Quigley: We had some money left over in a summer child care program and the board allowed me to use that. Head Start gave me the names of children they thought would benefit. I coordinated the program but students came from all five schools in Dickenson.

Chairman Kelsch: There were letters of support from prominent businesses in the Dickenson area, have they been approached about helping out in this endeavor?

Quigley: They have not been approached. They have been very supportive of any program that benefits children in our community. I would expect that to continue. They are supporting this because it benefits them and their employees as well as their future labor force.

Chairman Kelsch: There is a trend nationwide that businesses in some state have supported pre-kindergarten in partnership with the schools.

Tricia Lang, assistant director, Department of Public Instruction, testified in favor of the bill. (Testimony Attached.)

Mary Wahl, ND Council of Educational Leaders, testified in favor of the bill. It is important that children get launched well in their educational experiences. It can make a big difference to these special students. It would be wonderful if all these kids who are especially vulnerable could learn school is a good, fun, safe place to be and to learn in general that learning is fun. This preparation gives them a better chance. You get them into an orbit because of this kind of preparation and we have a much better chance of keeping them in that orbit and making successful students and citizens.

Opposition:

Ray Glasser, director of the Early Childhood Learning Center in Bismarck, testified in opposition to the bill. (Testimony Attached.)

Representative Mueller: We heard a lot of testimony about students that are in a poverty situation. Do you have any in a poverty situation in your program? Can you give me an idea of what the percentage might be.

Glasser: Only those that qualify for financial help from a state agency.

Representative Mueller: What I think you are saying is that if we set this thing together in a voucher arrangement that you would be happy with the concept.

Glasser: It would give disadvantaged children help.

Hearing closed.

At a later time on the same day, Chairman Kelsch opened discussion of HB 1320.

Representative Herbel: I move **Do Not Pass.**

Representative Karls: I **Second**

Representative Hunskor: We heard over and over to invest now or you pay for it later. If that is true and down the road it will cost many more dollars than we invest that's a pretty big factor in my mind.

Representative Herbel: I recall about two biennium ago we were working on the kindergarten program and there was concern at that time that this was really a good idea that we do it for four year olds; well now it doesn't apply to four year olds. Next biennium are we going to three year olds and then two year olds? I think there is some parental responsibility our society is not adhering to. I'm not opposed to the concept, but I think we have the government looking after the kids instead of the parents. Does that mean the problem is going to go away? I don't know that, but I don't think the government should be funding a day care center. I don't buy the idea that at third grades are going to be ahead of the other third graders—I think there comes a time when that washes out.

Representative Haas: I think we should pass this bill. The debate has to be continued. If you believe the research they are not day care centers. There are long-term, life-long benefits from this thing. It is somewhat a parental responsibility. For some of us who were raised in a good home with supportive parents and where the mother didn't work and was able to provide a lot of these things for children, it wasn't needed. The fact is that we have a tremendous number of families, either single parent or mother and father that simply cannot provide this for their children. It leads me to conclude that if the American society is going to continue and we know that one of the key elements to any modern society is a knowledgeable and educated populace. Without that, society will deteriorate and it will deteriorate fast. We cannot afford to not address this issue. I would resist the do not pass motion. I think we need to pass it. I would like to see an amendment that would reduce the appropriation to \$250.0 and require a 50% match by local school districts. Testimony after testimony shows the achievement benefits of these programs.

Representative Solberg: At one time I would have agreed with you, Representative Herbel, but I have asked some questions of other areas that have these opportunities for their kids and I've asked folks who were in the know about what happened down the line and they were considered much more accomplished students than the ones that didn't have this. I have two grandchildren that have participated in this and they can't wait to get to their pre-school and they have very good parents. I'm going to vote against the Do Not Pass.

Representative Hanson: I don't think we can a match from many schools. They are having a tough time getting it together now.

Representative Haas: Make it a minimum match to recognize the benefits of this program and say it is important. They need to make a commitment to the program.

Chairman Kelsch: This would be to fund three pilot programs. There were letters of support from business. There have been partnerships with business people who were getting on board. It would be good if you could get a private sector match—basically a community match. Or make it a local match. So if we were looking at a pilot project, at the end of the biennium, do we continue to fund those three programs? Pilot projects go away in two years. We cannot tie the hands of future legislators.

Representative Mueller: If you look at the bill, it really doesn't talk about pilot programs but that discussion did occur when the bill was put together. We did not put that in the bill. With that limited amount of money, that is what it is. I do think education is in a different era in regard to public education in our country. There are only eight states that aren't doing something in this area. Other states are investing some pretty significant money in these areas. We take a great deal of pride of our education in ND and our students' achievement; but if you look at the numbers, we are starting to slip backwards a bit. I don't know if any of us know what the reasons are. I would submit to you that a large part of it is student readiness. Those kids aren't hitting the deck a running. That is in part what this bill is about—to have

them ready to enter kindergarten and beyond. There is a whole lot of variation in the preparation some of these kids. I understand the concept of babysitting. I totally agree with Representative Haas, it's way more than that. It is about getting them ready to go to school and to be socially adapted to school. Socialization is a part of it, but far beyond that is the academic preparation. One other point I would make. There was a 16% return on the dollar and what that means is that there is a 16% reduction in additional school services that are going to be needed to have the needs met of kids that aren't in these programs. That means IEPs, remedial work, and a host of other things that statistics very distinctly put out aren't part of the problem as these kids go on to the other higher elementary grades. Those that are able to go to school and have a good background probably don't need pre-kindergarten work, but those kids that aren't in that desirable position, that's a whole different story. There's no question that the more poverty-ridden a young person is the more gain there is in this program. I will resist the do not pass. As far as the match issue, getting the community involved in the educational process is good.

Representative Karls: I found Mr. Glasser's testimony interesting because he stated that there are people who buy his services then why should the state provide those services to others for free. Is there some sort of needs based system we could use instead of free pre-kindergarten for everyone?

Representative Mueller: The bill does speak to needs based criteria. It's not wide open for everybody. If you have the financial wherewithal to send your kids to Mr. Glasser's program, you are more than welcome to do so. But this talks about the more disadvantaged. We heard in testimony that we are short more than 700 - 800 slots for people that are under the poverty level in our state. This bill's priority one is that group.

Chairman Kelsch: Or they may be above the poverty level and still meet the requirements for free or reduced lunch. Admission priority will be given to those students. We have the

severely disadvantaged and then we have a group right above that that is waiting to get in to Head Start and can't or just missed the requirement for Head Start by a \$1.0 a year. Some students may need some help and support. I'm one of those parents that sent all of my kids to pre-school and I was a stay at home mom so they could get more exposure to things that I can't give them.

Representative Herbel: I agree to some of the aspects that Representative Haas brought up. We don't fund our other academic programs at other levels. We only fund about 50%. I really believe we can't give them the money for this good program and not have some accountability requirements at the local level as well. On line 23, it says the board "may" establish—they don't have to. If we go this route and that's the way it sounds around me, that we put some local responsibility in.

Representative Haas: I think the "may" applies to the pilot program and if they are worthwhile are they worthwhile enough to replicate them in other places in the state and if they are, then the "may" can become "shall."

Chairman Kelsch: JoAnn Brager who started the Head Start program in Mandan. They used HIT to coordinate it. When she got the program started, she was contacted by other communities such as Flasher, Carson and other communities because there was such a need. New Salem had a shop type of place and the people who owned it gave it to them. They remodeled it and got it up to code to start classes there. She gets requests all the time to start new programs. There is such a need for them. She continued to branch out as much as she could and we thought she was spreading herself too thin. She has always had waiting lists in each one of the programs.

Representative Mueller: I heard some concerns that we were going to take kids out of the Head Start program. That was not a problem. It is important that the programs be coordinated; but in terms of running out of kids in the programs, that was not an issue.

Representative Hunskor: We heard that there were many kids that will not be prepared.

They have 12 years to go to school. They are going to struggle and their parents are going to struggle for 12 years. That school is going to have to provide some special help that's going to cost money for 12 years. If we go to this pilot project that is a way to find out if it is going to work or not. If we don't do anything with it, how are we going to know?

Chairman Kelsch: We have a Do Not Pass motion before us.

A roll call vote was taken: Yes: 3, No: 10, Absent:0

Representative Mueller: I move a Do Pass and refer to Appropriations.

Representative Meier: I Second.

Representative Hanson: What about the match.

Representative Haas: If Representative Mueller thinks we go with it as it is, I won't object to it.

Vice Chairman Meier: I like the idea of a match. It would probably allow for more buy in from the community and probably raise more awareness too.

Representative Mueller: I Withdraw my motion.

Representative Hanson: I Move an amendment for a 10% local match.

Vice Chairman Meier: I Second.

Representative Haas: The intent of the match is that it lets us hear from the school districts and they say they want to get into this program and do one of these pilot projects that they recognize that this is a need they have in the district and are serious enough about it to come up with some funding. It's a mark of their commitment to the seriousness of the idea and to doing the pilot project because they see the value.

Representative Herbel: If we pass this is there some sort of criteria as to who will get the pilot program or is it a first come, first served thing.

Representative Mueller: I was given assurance by DPI that they would come up with the right set of criterion and a process they must go through. I think the DPI will handle that by developing some rules.

Representative Haas: There are two statements on the bill that agree that. The grant payment per student may not exceed 50% of the per pupil payment. No school can get more than \$1500 for this program. If they have more students than they can fund, they can prorate this section. There is some flexibility there.

Representative Sukat: My initial thoughts paralleled Representative Herbel's a lot. As I look at this in the future. We are only going to reach a few kids to start with. There's not enough dollars in there to catch all of them. Looking down the line, immediately we are leaving out a lot of kids. Some time, if the program works, we are going to put more money into education in order to fund this. I'm wondering how far we can go with putting more money in to education when we're struggling right now to fund what we need to fund. That's some of my apprehension in addition to the initial comments made by Representative Herbel. I see the gap there though and I see some purpose in this definitely but those are some of my concerns.

A voice vote was taken. The amendment was accepted.

Vice Chairman Meier: I move Do Pass as Amended and rerefer to Appropriations.

Representative Mueller: I Second.

A roll call vote was taken. Yes: 10, No: 3, Absent: 0.

HB 1320 passed as amended and rereferred to Appropriations.

Representative Mueller will carry the bill.

Date: 30 Jan
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1320

House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By Herbel Seconded By Karls

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Kelsch		✓	Rep Hanson		✓
V Chairman Meier		✓	Rep Hunskor		✓
Rep Haas		✓	Rep Mueller		✓
Rep Herbel	✓		Rep Myxter		✓
Rep Johnson		✓	Rep Solberg		✓
Rep Karls	✓				
Rep Sukat	✓				
Rep Wall		✓			

Total Yes 3 No 10

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

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

Failed

Date: 30 Jan
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1320

House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass + re refer to Appropriations

Motion Made By Mueller Seconded By Meier

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Kelsch			Rep Hanson		
V Chairman Meier			Rep Hunskor		
Rep Haas			Rep Mueller		
Rep Herbel			Rep Myxter		
Rep Johnson			Rep Solberg		
Rep Karls					
Rep Sukat					
Rep Wall					

Total Yes _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

House Amendments to HB 1320 (70144.0201) - Education Committee 01/31/2007

Page 2, line 14, after the underscored period insert "To receive the grant moneys, a board shall provide a ten percent local match."

Page 2, remove line 30

Page 2, line 31, replace the third underscored period with "; and

8. Provide a ten percent local match of the grant moneys."

House Amendments to HB 1320 (70144.0201) - Education Committee 01/31/2007

Page 3, line 7, after the period insert "The grant payment may be distributed to a local school board only if the board has provided ten percent of the moneys from a local match."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 30 Jan 07
Roll Call Vote #: 3

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1320

House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken 10% match of the 450.0

Motion Made By Hanson Seconded By Meier

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Kelsch			Rep Hanson		
V Chairman Meier			Rep Hunsakor		
Rep Haas			Rep Mueller		
Rep Herbel			Rep Myxter		
Rep Johnson			Rep Solberg		
Rep Karls					
Rep Sukat					
Rep Wall					

Total Yes 13 No 0

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

10% local match required locally

Date: 30 Jan 07
Roll Call Vote #: 4

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1320

House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken No Pass as Amended + referred to Appropriations

Motion Made By Deason Seconded By Mueller

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Kelsch	✓		Rep Hanson	✓	
V Chairman Meier	✓		Rep Hunskor	✓	
Rep Haas	✓		Rep Mueller	✓	
Rep Herbel		✓	Rep Myxter	✓	
Rep Johnson	✓		Rep Solberg	✓	
Rep Karls		✓			
Rep Sukat		✓			
Rep Wall	✓				

Total Yes 10 No 3

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Mueller

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

All grant money must have 10% local match.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1320: Education Committee (Rep. R. Kelsch, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (10 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1320 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 2, line 14, after the underscored period insert "To receive the grant moneys, a board shall provide a ten percent local match."

Page 2, remove line 30

Page 2, line 31, replace the third underscored period with "; and

8. Provide a ten percent local match of the grant moneys."

Page 3, line 7, after the period insert "The grant payment may be distributed to a local school board only if the board has provided ten percent of the moneys from a local match."

Renumber accordingly

2007 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1320

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1320

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 12, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 3404

Committee Clerk Signature

Shirley Branning

Minutes:

Chm. Svedjen called the meeting to order to take up Engrossed House Bill 1320, a bill relating to the establishment of a prekindergarten program and approval of early childhood education programs, by introducing **Rep. Raeann Kelsch**, District 34.

Rep. Kelsch provided explanation of the bill as a pilot program for prekindergarten. The amendment .0301 reduces the appropriation that is in the bill from \$500,000 down to \$225,000. The business people across the state know the benefits of a child getting a good education and an early start. There would be partnering with a head start program or some other early childhood program already existing in the community, a not-for-profit program.

Rep. Skarphol: Is there any provision where businesses can come in and contribute to the cost?

Rep. Kelsch: There is not, but nothing prevents them from contributing. Nation wide, business and community are starting up pre kindergarten programs.

Rep. Skarphol: Was there any discussion about grant availability to communities thinking along those lines or matches?

Rep. Kelsch: We did discuss this and should have put it into the amendment.

Rep. Wald: Would these teachers be qualified?

Rep. Kelsch: They would be highly qualified. Certified, this law was passed in 1997.

Rep. Skarphol: What do you envision the size of these grants might be?

Rep. Kelsch: May be 2, possibly 4.

Rep. Hawken: This is happening all over the US. Early Childhood is an important part of our economic system. The idea is for partnering to happen, so that no existing childcare business will be taken away.

Rep. Glassheim: Does page 2, line 14 respond to Rep. Skarphol's question?

Rep. Kelsch: Yes.

Rep. Nelson: You pointed out two areas of special need for Headstart and programs such as this. What other communities are in need of this, especially in rural areas?

Rep. Kelsch: Yes, Mandan Headstart has had programs in Grant, Oliver, there are 14 programs in the area. Much testimony was given in support.

Rep. Nelson: With the limited funding for the needs, is one of the questions to put these grants out on a match basis or will it be competitive criteria that you use?

Rep. Kelsch: You would have to apply for the program and at-risk students probably would have priority. There are programs in Bismarck-Mandan that people can pay to have their child enrolled, this would be for those children who could not go into those programs.

Chm. Svedjen: On page 2, line 15 it talks about a local match.

Rep. Skarphol: I am going to add an amendment to this bill that requires that it be a competitive grant program with preference given to the level of local match and private participation in the matching fund levels.

Chm. Svedjen: Will this interfere with the level of service?

Rep. Kelsch: I think it will, and the reason we didn't use that as specific criteria but left the language is that we were concerned about the partnership between the Headstart programs.

You may have communities that may be able to get the match but may not be getting to the students we want to get it to, especially if it will become competitive.

Rep. Skarphol: Where is it stated that needs based students are going to be given preference? And if so, is a community gonna apply for a grant for only those students or are they gonna apply for a grant for all that would want to come. How do we differentiate there?

Rep. Kelsch: In order to receive funding they do have to give admission priority to those students who have a lower income level, as specified on page 2, line 23. Priority will be given to student who falls within that income level.

Rep. Aarsvold: Addressed the needs of lower functioning children as also falling within the lower income levels.

Rep. Hawken moved for the adoption of Amendment .0301. Rep. Aarsvold seconded the motion. The motion to amend the bill passed by voice vote.

Rep. Skarphol moved a Do Pass as amended to HB 1320. Rep. Hawken seconded the motion. The Do Pass motion carried by a roll call vote of 20 yeas, 4 nays and 0 absent.

Rep. Mueller will be the carrier of the bill.

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1320

Page 2, line 4, after "agreement" insert "or by contract with a not-for-profit entity currently operating a head start program"

Page 3, line 3, replace "\$500,000" with "\$225,000"

Page 3, line 7, replace "\$450,000" with "\$200,000"

Page 3, line 12, replace "\$50,000" with "\$25,000"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2/12/07
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1320

House Appropriations Full Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Adopt - D301

Motion Made By Huber Seconded By Aarsvold

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Svedjan					
Vice Chairman Kempenich					
Representative Waid			Representative Aarsvold		
Representative Monson			Representative Gulleson		
Representative Hawken					
Representative Klein					
Representative Martinson					
Representative Carlson			Representative Glassheim		
Representative Carlisle			Representative Kroeber		
Representative Skarphol			Representative Williams		
Representative Thoreson					
Representative Pollert			Representative Ekstrom		
Representative Bellew			Representative Kerzman		
Representative Kreidt			Representative Metcalf		
Representative Nelson					
Representative Wieand					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

Voiced Vote - carries

Date: 2/12/07
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1320

House Appropriations Full Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 70144-0301

Action Taken PP as Amended by 0301

Motion Made By Skarphol Seconded By Hawken

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Svedjan	✓				
Vice Chairman Kempenich	✓				
Representative Wald		✓	Representative Aarsvold	✓	
Representative Monson	✓		Representative Guleson	✓	
Representative Hawken	✓				
Representative Klein	✓				
Representative Martinson	✓				
Representative Carlson		✓	Representative Glassheim	✓	
Representative Carlisle	✓		Representative Kroeber	✓	
Representative Skarphol	✓		Representative Williams	✓	
Representative Thoreson	✓				
Representative Pollert		✓	Representative Ekstrom	✓	
Representative Bellew		✓	Representative Kerzman	✓	
Representative Krelt	✓		Representative Metcalf	✓	
Representative Nelson	✓				
Representative Wieland	✓				

Total (Yes) 20 No 4

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Muller

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1320, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Svedjan, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (20 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1320 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 2, line 4, after "agreement" insert "or by contract with a not-for-profit entity currently operating a head start program"

Page 3, line 3, replace "\$500,000" with "\$225,000"

Page 3, line 7, replace "\$450,000" with "\$200,000"

Page 3, line 12, replace "\$50,000" with "\$25,000"

Renumber accordingly

2007 SENATE EDUCATION

HB 1320

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1320

Senate Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 6, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 4440, 4465

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

Chairman Freborg opened the hearing on HB 1320, a bill relating to the establishment of a pre-kindergarten program. All members were present.

Representative Mueller introduced the bill. (Written testimony attached) The support of employers and business is very interesting. Research shows a distinct advantage to pre-kindergarten.

Representative Hawken testified in favor of the bill. She attended a conference, the National Conference of State Legislators, which spoke to this issue. Economists that had nothing to do with education talked about the facts and statistics about children with early childhood education. These kids have a good attitude about school, they have success, and they fit in and belong. They have less behavioral problems, less incarceration. We are investing on the front end with early childhood education and will save millions instead of investing on the back end in jails and prisons. This is not an attempt to close existing day care centers; this could involve them in partnerships. In smaller communities, there is a possibility of partnerships with business. If we can start now, we will be doing something for the state of North Dakota.

Senator Bakke testified in favor of the bill. (Written testimony attached)

Chairman Freborg asked what will happen to all the children who don't attend pre-kindergarten, it is not mandatory.

Senator Bakke said she realizes Chairman Freborg prefers mandatory programs but not all school districts can provide pre-kindergarten. Some children do fine without pre-kindergarten, they live in a home with lots of stimulation and activity. As an educator, she would rather have most kids in a kindergarten class with a pre-kindergarten background. She would prefer a mandatory program but the state cannot support it. Just because we cannot offer it to everyone, it's not fair that we offer it to no one.

Bev Nielson, North Dakota School Boards Association, testified in favor of the bill. They support this modest move. It is important, especially that the lower income children receive this opportunity. Middle and upper class kids are already in pre-school.

Sharon Hansen, Director of the Early Childhood Center, Dickinson, testified in favor of the bill.
(Written testimony attached)

Senator Bakke asked if the funding source for Head Start has been steady and constant.

Ms. Hansen said it has not been constant. They have been flat funded and last year they took a significant decrease in funding. They are trying to hold at their current numbers but it is increasingly difficult to do. She has been the director for 14 years and they have a waiting list that is longer than ever before. 94% of their families are employed, they are trying to make it. Many are single, working mothers and are barely missing the income guidelines. The national trend is to send children to pre-school. There is growing disparity between the haves and the have nots.

Senator Taylor said if there are 700 income eligible children, how will they be served? How will the money be distributed?

Ms. Hansen said she hopes the schools with the greatest needs will apply, this is a very small appropriation. In Dickinson, they have 60 children who do not qualify for Head Start and who are living at risk. That is not too few to apply. Her efforts to testify have been strongly supported by her school board and administration.

Senator Flakoll said if all 700 would participate, what can you get for \$125?

Ms. Hansen said for 700 students, \$200,000 would not cover. The best thing to do is to collaborate with existing programs. They have found great success with trying to blend the funding streams and provide more services for more children.

Barb Arnold-Tengesdal, North Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children and Assistant Professor of Education, University of Mary, testified in favor of the bill. (Written testimony attached) She mentioned Rolnick and Gunewald will be speaking in North Dakota on March 27 and invited the committee to attend.

Senator Gary Lee said we have had three bills today asking for funding from the state. We have heard a lot of bills that have to do with additional funding, one was for kindergarten. How would she rank this bill in a priority system with kindergarten, which is more important to fund?

Ms. Arnold-Tengesdal said they go hand in hand, the appropriation has been so reduced, this is just a beginning. Pre-kindergarten dovetails into kindergarten. She would recommend getting rid of other bills first.

Senator Flakoll asked which appropriation was reduced.

Ms. Arnold-Tengesdal said the appropriation in the bill was \$500,000 and was reduced in House Education.

Senator Flakoll said it was not reduced over the current biennium.

Ms. Arnold-Tengesdal said no.

JoAnn Brager, Director of West River Head Start, testified in favor of the bill. (Written testimony attached) Mercer County has the highest income in the state yet they have 60 on their waiting list. There is a dire need for services in North Dakota. The income cutoff is \$20,650 for a family of four. Parents are strongly included in these programs, they teach them to read to their children and teach them the importance of education.

Joe Rothschiller, President, Steffes Corporation, testified in favor of the bill. He is part of the P16 task force, he is part of the manufacturer's round table in Dickinson, a father and a businessman. He has heard Grunewald speak and he knows Rolnick, there are a lot of people with a passion for early childhood education in the room today and hearing these people talk makes one passionate about it too. As a business person, he sees this as an economic development issue, a socio economic benefit. When we talk about incarceration and what we are going to be doing long term, it all starts at pre-k. You fund both, we have got to get our feet wet on the pre k issue. \$200,000 is peanuts. From a business perspective, he supports this, we have to start somewhere. In future sessions, you will see more and more bills on this issue. Overwhelmingly the statistics support pre k education.

Tricia Lang, Assistant Director of School Approval and Accreditation, Department of Public Instruction, testified in favor of the bill. (Written testimony attached)

Mary Wahl, North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders, testified in favor of the bill. One of the most fundamental things that we can do for children is to launch them into their academic orbit successfully. If we can do so, there is a good chance they can stay in that academic orbit, they can become good students and be good citizens. How difficult for the child that is on the waiting list, to come to kindergarten the first day and to be the only one who has not had a pre school program. Every child deserves some common opportunity to be on a level

playing field when they come into kindergarten. The bill would give more children the opportunity.

Gloria Lokken, NDEA, testified in favor of the bill. It is an important step, an investment in our future. It is a small first step, she hopes it will be built on.

Ray Glasser, Early Childhood Learning Center, testified in opposition to the bill. (Written testimony attached)

Senator Flakoll asked the cost of attending his center.

Mr. Glasser said it depends on the age of the child, a three year old is \$70 - \$80 per week, full time.

Senator Flakoll asked the cost for a 4 year old.

Mr. Glasser said it would be in the same range.

Senator Bakke asked if they make allowances for low income families.

Mr. Glasser said if they meet the guidelines for social services, they can.

Senator Bakke asked about the 10% local match required in the bill, would he be interested in applying to the program and paying the match.

Mr. Glasser said he doesn't know. He struggles each year to make it. It is hard to hire early childhood majors.

Senator Flakoll asked if he is a non profit.

Mr. Glasser said no, they are for profit.

Chairman Freborg closed the hearing on HB 1320.

Chairman Freborg said he found at noon we have before and after school programs, \$4.1 million in it in federal funds. He doesn't know how much state money is in it, 2013 has some money in it and that is sitting in House appropriations.

Senator Bakke said there was an after school program bill that was presented in the House and it died on the floor.

Chairman Freborg said they call it after school but they take the kids from 7 AM to 6 PM.

Senator Bakke said a lot of kids get dropped off whether there is a program or not, that is the sad part.

Senator Gary Lee said he is not ready to buy into the concept that the state should start funding four year olds' education.

Chairman Freborg said three year olds, according to testimony.

Senator Gary Lee said we just passed a kindergarten bill out. He has grand children, he sees the parental responsibility being pretty significant at that age in terms of the time spent with the children.

Chairman Freborg said where did it talk about three year olds?

Senator Flakoll said in Head Start.

Chairman Freborg asked how many programs are we going to have.

Senator Flakoll said we can have as many as you want.

Chairman Freborg said we could count those on one finger.

Senator Taylor said he understands parental responsibility is critical. This is a small appropriation and would pick up kids with single working mothers. The child is there, mom is working and is trying to pay the bills and may not qualify for Head Start. We could really help them out. Its parental choice, a lot of parents want to be with those kids if they can afford it.

Chairman Freborg said we have a good social service program in that area.

Senator Bakke said you're right, there is some money there but these are the people that fall through the cracks and don't qualify. There are a lot of people who aren't good parents and aren't reading to their children. We are trying to reach kids without the home life we all think is

appropriate. We need to end the cycle of poor parenting because we will have children who are learning better skills.

Senator Gary Lee said we could find ways to spend money on every social ill. We have to draw the line. Kindergarten for him is the line. Now we are looking for another reason for another age group for another ill of society. They are rational things to be talking about, he doesn't disagree at all. He thinks kindergarten is the level of education the state should consider at this point.

Chairman Freborg said he agrees with Senator Taylor that it's not much money and if it would stay at that level it might be ok. But this is the tip of the iceberg.

Senator Flakoll said he has some amendments he would like the committee to consider. One would provide for spending \$100,000 in year one and \$100,000 in year two. He would also like to consider requiring a report to the legislative council since this sunsets in 2009.

Chairman Freborg said he would ask for a report on \$200,000?

Senator Flakoll said yes. He would also like to consider an amendment to use the funding for kids not already enrolled in Head Start, he doesn't see it in the bill now.

Chairman Freborg asked Senator Flakoll to have the amendments drafted, he wants all the appropriation bills out tomorrow.

Chairman Freborg closed the discussion on HB 1320.

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1320

Senate Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 7, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 4544

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

Chairman Freborg opened the discussion on HB 1320. All members were present.

Senator Flakoll distributed amendment 70144.0401. The amendments do two things; kids already enrolled in Head Start would not be eligible for this pre school program and it would require \$100,000 to be spent per biennium. We heard in testimony the program was designed to cover kids who fall through the cracks so the amendment would help do that.

Senator Flakoll moved amendment 70144.0401, seconded by Senator Taylor.

Senator Taylor confirmed the amendment says children enrolled in a Head Start program, not on a waiting list.

Senator Flakoll said that is correct.

Senator Bakke said Senator Flakoll had at one time said he was considering requiring a report to the interim committee. Has he changed his mind?

Senator Flakoll said we have the option of asking for reports whenever we need them so he did not include it.

The motion passed 5-0.

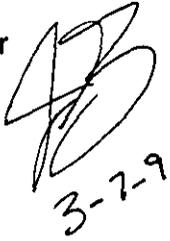
Senator Flakoll moved a Do Pass As Amended and Rerefer to Appropriations on HB 1320, seconded by Senator Bakke.

The motion passed 3-2. Senator Bakke will carry the bill.

70144.0401
Title.0500

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator Flakoll

March 6, 2007



Handwritten signature and date: 3-7-9

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1320

Page 2, line 2, after the first "program" insert "or a head start program"

Page 3, line 8, replace "\$200,000" with "up to \$100,000 during each year of the biennium"

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1320, as reengrossed: Education Committee (Sen. Freborg, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (3 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Reengrossed HB 1320 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 2, line 2, after the first "program" insert "or a head start program"

Page 3, line 8, replace "\$200,000" with "up to \$100,000 during each year of the biennium"

Renumber accordingly

2007 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1320

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1320

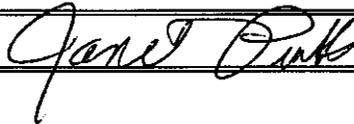
Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 03-15-07

Recorder Job Number: 5146

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Holmberg opened the hearing on HB 1320 regarding the establishment of a pre kindergarten program. The bill was heard in the Senate Education Committee and they urged the Senate to pass the bill and we have to look at the money aspect.

Representative Mueller, District 24, Valley City, testified introducing HB 1320 indicating that 39 other states have state sponsored pre kindergartens. Ours is narrowing focused and funded. It is for four year olds, it is strictly voluntary. This is a collaboration with the headstart program we currently have in place in ND. He distributed a news article about the concept.

Chairman Holmberg indicated the Senate Education committee changed the bill a little on page two, line two the statement "who are not enrolled in Kindergarten or Head start". Can you help us understand the ramifications of that amendment?

Representative Mueller indicated he would agree with the amendment. The funding level from the federal government does not allow everyone into the head start program as there are several factors. The amendment is saying you don't compete with existing programs.

Chairman Holmberg indicated the Education Committee also reduced the appropriation from \$225,000 to \$100,000.

Representative Mueller indicated that the original bill had \$500,000 and as it came to House appropriations it was reduced to \$225,000.

Senator Bowman asked if there was anything stopping school districts from having this now if they think it is that important to do this or does it always have to come through the Legislature and an appropriation to get the bill started.

Representative Mueller indicated he did not think there was a reason they could not do this.

From the practical standpoint, the school systems are pretty strapped for dollars. This bill begins the process of a Pre Kindergarten program.

Senator Bowman indicated if this puts kids at a greater advantage, what will it do for the country kids who can't participate in this.

Representative Mueller indicated that was a good point and there lies the request for additional funding. We need to find out how this applies and the benefits derived from it. If in two years we have no value from this program, then we don't need to do this.

Chairman Holmberg questioned whether we are making a mistake by putting this money in a separate program.

Representative Mueller did not think so.

Representative Kathy Hawken, District 46, Fargo, testified requesting support on HB 1320.

She indicated she attended and NCLC Conference last summer with other legislators and this was the topic. I found that an economist who had nothing to do with schools explained why the investment on the early end saves us a ton of money on the back end. In response the the question can we do it everywhere. Maybe because we building partnerships between schools, businesses, private child care centers and we work together. This is not to put people out of business but is to provide educational opportunities because research is showing this is vital to three and four year olds. If we don't do it then, the brain cells start to get littler and littler.

Barb Tangesdal, NDA of Education of Young Children, Professor of University Mary teaching early childhood education, testified indicating there are 700 children on waiting on lists for head

start services and those are kids at risk. A family of four with two parents working making \$20,600 is over income eligible for head start. We know if we can get this kind of pre kindergarten experience it will lessen the special education, health care costs and other things. ND is different, we can't have a one size fits all and this pilot project was thought through to see what would work in a rural area, what would work with head start, why can't we partner with a YMCA program in Fargo or with ECLC in Bismarck.

Chairman Holmberg closed the hearing on HB 1320.

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1320

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 03-21-07

Recorder Job Number: 5424

Committee Clerk Signature

Janet Pinks

Minutes:

Chairman Holmberg opened the hearing on HB1320 indicating the appropriation is \$225,000 for the prekindergarten program.

Senator Grindberg move do not pass on HB 1320, Senator Christmann seconded. Discussion followed.

Senator Krauter indicated this is a good type of program for children. This is a much higher priority as this is the type of thing that makes good citizens in North Dakota. This is money being well-spent.

Senator Krebsbach indicated that she hears what Senator Krauter is saying but at this time I don't think I can support pre kindergarten when we are not fully supporting kindergarten in public schools.

Senator Wardner stated he doesn't disagree with Senator Krauter but we do have an early childhood bill in the house which is still alive.

Senator Krauter stated that is through DHS and this is through the K-12 program.

Senator Mathern presented an amendment from Senator Flakol that was not attached to the bill. Senator Flakol wants to keep the bill alive. This is amendment .0400.

Chairman Holmberg indicated it is part of the bill.

A roll call vote was taken on a do not pass resulting in 8 yes, 6 no, 0 absent. The motion carried.

Senator Holmberg will carry the bill.

Chairman Holmberg adjourned the discussion on HB 1322.

Date:
Roll Call Vote #:

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1320

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DNP

Motion Made By Grindberg Seconded By Christmann

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Ray Holmberg, Chrm	✓		Senator Aaron Krauter		✓
Senator Bill Bowman, V Chrm	✓		Senator Elroy N. Lindaas		✓
Senator Tony Grindberg, V Chrm	✓		Senator Tim Mathern		✓
Senator Randel Christmann	✓		Senator Larry J. Robinson		✓
Senator Tom Fischer	✓		Senator Tom Seymour		✓
Senator Ralph L. Kilzer	✓		Senator Harvey Tallackson		✓
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	✓				
Senator Rich Wardner	✓				

Total (Yes) 8 No 6

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Holmberg

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 22, 2007 9:38 a.m.

Module No: SR-54-5868
Carrier: Holmberg
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1320, as reengrossed and amended: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (8 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Reengrossed HB 1320, as amended, was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

HB 1320

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Testimony
HB 1320
January 30, 2007
House Education Committee
Pioneer Room, 10 AM
Chairperson RaeAnn Kelsch

*Time given
testimony given
to Senate
Education.*

Good morning Madame Chairperson and fellow House Education members. I am Phil Mueller from District 24. District 24 is part of Barnes County and part of Ransom County.

I and others are here this morning to talk about Pre-kindergarten for four year olds in North Dakota. That may seem young but some of the other presenters will speak to what is happening inside a four year old head and why it is so important that those young minds have access to learning and skill development opportunities.

This past summer the Pew Institute sponsored a conference for eight states that do not have a state sponsored Pre-K program. North Dakota is one of those states. I came away from that conference which was also attended by our chairperson, Representative RaeAnn Kelsch, convinced that we in our state must begin the process of implementing a pre-k program for four year olds.

Thirty-nine other states have a state sponsored Pre-K program. Those 39 states educated about 900,000 four year olds in the 2005-2006 school year. That is more than the federally funded Head Start program enrolled in that time period. It is important to know that the application process which would be handled by the DPI is to be designed to prevent conflict with Head Start especially in the area of the competing for the same four year old students. It is also important to note that there are aspects of Head Start and the Pre-K program that will be similar but there will be significant differences. Presenters after me will talk about how Head Start and the proposed Pre-K program will interface and work together.

Participation in the Pre-K program would be strictly voluntary. For a school district to be involved in a Pre-K program, it would have to go through an application process determined by DPI using the guidelines outlined in Sections 3, 4 and 5 of HB 1320. Having qualified teachers and monitoring student progress are essential parts of any good education program. That is especially true of a Pre-K program. Those components are in HB 1320.

Research has shown high quality preschool dramatically affects achievement, high school graduation and college attendance, employment and earnings, crime and delinquency, health behaviors like smoking and drug use, even marriage rates. In economic terms, research finds that high-quality preschool pays high returns to the individual, community, state and the nation as a whole.

It is time to start Pre-Kindergarten in North Dakota. The research results conclusively show the value of early childhood education. I urge passage of the 1320. Thank you and I will stand for questions.

Thank you for your time.

Testimony for HB 1320

Same testimony given to House Education.

Good morning Chairman Freborg and Senate Education Committee members. My name is Sharon Hansen, Director of the Early Childhood Center, which is home to Community Action Head Start and the Dickinson Public Schools Preschool Special Needs Programs. As a public school employee and a Head Start Director, I look forward to strengthening our efforts to serve the educational needs of four-year-olds in the state of North Dakota.

Certainly one of the questions on everyone's minds is *Why does North Dakota need a Prekindergarten program?* The mission of Prekindergarten programs is to ensure that every child begins school with the skills needed to succeed. This mission also supports those of every K-12 school system in North Dakota, which is to enable every student to succeed throughout their school years and into their adult lives.

Almost 50% of the kindergarten teachers in a national study reported that at least half of the children entering kindergarten lacked appropriate readiness skills, including low academic skills and an inability to follow directions. (Rimm-Kaufman, Pianta, & Cox, 2000). Those kindergarten teachers who judged their students as better prepared for kindergarten attributed the difference to enrollment in Head Start and high quality preschool programs (Espinosa, Thornburg, & Mathews, 1997).

A major study commissioned by the U. S. Department of Education (2000) found that children who had attended Head Start, Prekindergarten, or other center based preschool programs scored significantly higher than their peers did in pre-reading, math, and prewriting skill development. States that already provide a Prekindergarten program for their four-year-olds have seen the scores of their incoming kindergarten students rise significantly in reading, language, and math (Xiang & Schweinhart, 2002; New Jersey Department of Education, 2004; Gormley & Phillips, 2003). Given the demands of the No Child Left Behind legislation and the increasing global competition, we must take advantage of every available educational opportunity to increase the academic successes for our students.

Research has repeatedly demonstrated that the strongest predictor of poor school achievement is low socioeconomic status. In North Dakota, almost 18% of the children four years of age and under live in poverty while another 11% live in near poverty. Even more significant is the fact that over 44% of children residing with single mothers in North Dakota live in poverty (North Dakota Kids Count, 2006). That means that approximately 30% of the children who enter kindergarten in North Dakota each year are at risk for poor school achievement.

Before you think those percentages must be atypical, the preschool children from the Early Childhood Center in Dickinson now make up one-third of the Dickinson Public Schools kindergarten population each year. Over 90% of these children live in poverty while another 45% receive special education services. Without a high quality early childhood program, most of these children would begin kindergarten far behind their peers.

Research has also found that children's academic and social skill development upon entry into kindergarten predicts future school achievement. Children who begin kindergarten with fewer

readiness skills than their peers typically do not catch up. In fact, these children fall further behind as they proceed through their K-12 school years and enter the work force without the necessary skills to successfully carryout their job related responsibilities (Entwisle and Alexander, 1999; Lee & Burkham, 2002).

Sadly enough, North Dakota's Head Start programs cannot serve all children who are at risk for low school achievement. Over the past few weeks, I have had the distinct displeasure of sitting in the homes of young families who desperately wanted to enroll their children in our Early Childhood Center. Families in the Dickinson area as in most areas of our state have two options for receiving a public Prekindergarten or preschool experience: (a) meet the poverty income guidelines for Head Start or (b) meet the state eligibility requirements for early childhood special education. These families barely missed both criteria. These children are very much at risk for future poor school achievement. I watched tears well in the eyes of one young mother who pleaded, "What can I do? I can't afford private preschool."

If we strongly support parental choice in North Dakota, we must provide parents with options from which to choose. North Dakota leads the nation with the highest percentage, approximately 76%, of mothers with children under the age of five years in the work force. The majority of preschool children in North Dakota already spend most of their waking hours outside of their home environments.

Never before have the needs of our families and children been so great. In the state of North Dakota, over 700 income eligible preschool children remain unserved on the Head Start Wait Lists. These children cannot afford to wait. They will begin kindergarten in less than a year without the academic boost that a Prekindergarten program could provide them.

As Nobel prize-winning economist, James Heckman, stated in his work on human capital, "Learning begets learning and skill begets skill." Successful experiences during the early years cumulate and build throughout a child's school years and into their job careers. Rob Grunewald and Arthur Rolnick, regional analysts from the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis have estimated a 16% return (inflation adjusted) on every dollar invested in early childhood education. Special education, remediation, and grade retention are only moderately successful and very costly for children who begin school without the readiness necessary skills. North Dakota's economic future depends on our children getting off to the right start.

I urge you to support HB 1320 to assure that North Dakota continues to provide a quality of place for their young children and their families. I have also attached Letters of Support to my Testimony from Dennis Johnson, the Dickinson mayor and CEO of TMI Corporation, Joe Rothschilder, the President of Steffes Corporation, and Guy Moos, the CEO of Baker Boy. They also attest to the importance of a high quality preschool education for North Dakota's future economic success.

Sharon A. Hansen
Director, Early Childhood Center
Dickinson Public Schools/Community Action Head Start
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E-Mail: jrothschiller@steffes.com

January 25, 2007

TO: Sharon Hansen

RE: HB 1320

As a businessperson, parent and P-16 committee member, I support passage of HB1320. In the past 12 months I have learned early childhood education & development is one of the keys to success in adult life. In addition to better preparing our children for success in school, long-term it provides a higher quality citizen and workforce for ND employers. Competition today is Global. We must do more to move our students from being Good to being Great.

Statistics show we learn the majority of our skills sets prior to age 5 and that there is a significant financial return to the community when children are better prepared for learning. Passage of HB1320 will have a significant positive impact on our education system, the student, our future workforce and other community benefits.

As an employer, it seems like it will be a long time before we will see a return on this investment (graduation), however, we are here for the long-term, not the short-term, and therefore need this Bill passed this session to begin reaping the other individual and community benefits the Bill will have. We owe it to our ND communities.

Sincerely,

Joe Rothschiller
President & COO

To: Sharon Hansen

Date: January 26, 2007

From: Guy M. Moos
CEO

Re: HB 1320

Thank you for testifying in support of HB 1320. I also support the passage of this Bill.

For companies in North Dakota to compete in the global economy, our future workers must be better educated and have greater skills than our present workers. This life-long learning journey for many children starts in Kindergarten. Unfortunately, many students are not ready for Kindergarten. These same children ultimately enter the force unprepared to do their jobs. I am sorry to say, we see many job applicants that are not prepared as they should be.

The establishment of a prekindergarten program is an excellent investment in our future. Studies have shown that early childhood education helps our children be more successful. Their success will mean greater success for our businesses and our state. This Bill will also lessen the need for more costly programs such as special education, welfare, as well as the costs endured to the criminal justice system.

170 GTA Drive ~ Dickinson, ND 58601 ~ www.bakerboy.com
701-225-4444 ~ 1-800-437-2008 ~ info@bakerboy.com

 *Baker Boy*

Testimony in support of HB 1320
A bill for an Act to establish a pre-kindergarten program

*Same
testimony given to
House
Education.*

Good morning, Chairperson Freborg and Senate Education Committee members. I am JoAnn Brager, Director of West River Head Start. We serve 168 children and families in Morton, Grant, Oliver & Mercer Counties with a comprehensive & developmentally appropriate early childhood program for 3 & 4-year-old children. Our Head Start program is a member of the ND Head Start Association that currently represents 2,932 children throughout the state.

The North Dakota Head Start Association has written a position statement on state-funded pre-Kindergarten and a copy is attached to my testimony. Head Start supports a developmentally appropriate, collaborative, high-quality state-funded pre-Kindergarten program. All 14 North Dakota Head Start programs already work in partnership with other early care and education programs.

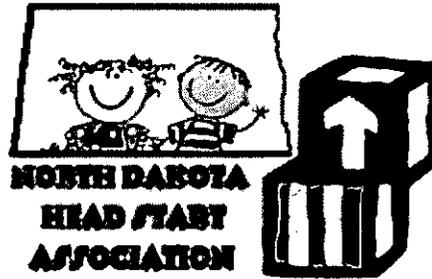
One example of close collaboration and partnership in a high-quality, developmentally appropriate classroom is located in Carson & Elgin in Grant County. The WRHS classrooms are also the early childhood preschool special needs classrooms. Funding for staffing, meals and supplies are agreed upon between the special education director and me. We each ensure our programming regulations are met and when one standard is higher, we work to meet the higher of the two standards. When you walk into the classroom, all children are learning and you can not tell which funding stream supports which child or staff. Additionally, when either program offers staff or parent training, all staff and parents are invited to attend – whether their child is enrolled in Special Education or Head Start (or a combination.) As previously stated, this is only one example of a collaborative relationship. There are many more excellent

examples of ways Head Start programs already work in collaboration with early care and education programs around North Dakota.

All North Dakota Head Start programs are full and most have waiting lists for children to get in. Head Start alone can not meet the needs of low-income children and families. Head Start eligibility requirements are 1) age and 2) income. The child must be at least 3 years old and income eligibility is at 100% federal poverty guidelines – no more than \$20,000 per year gross income for a family of four. So, if “Mom” and “Dad” have a 3-year-old and a 4-year-old and both parents work for \$5.15/hour for 40 hours per week for 52 weeks per year, their gross income is \$21,424. They are over-income for Head Start. Let me say again that North Dakota Head Start programs are full and most have waiting lists. The income guidelines identified in HB 1320 would help many of these families who live in poverty but are not eligible for Head Start.

There are challenges to blending programs and funding. We have different missions, teacher credentials, comprehensiveness of services, and eligibility requirements. (Please refer to the second attachment.) The key to making it a success for children and families is collaboration at the state and regional administration levels; partnerships at the school superintendent, principal and Head Start provider’s level; working with advisory councils; states can require programs to work together and prove it in the application requirement; and encourage joint professional development. The Head Start Association is committed to working through the challenges to support these at-risk children getting a good start in preparation for their elementary education.

The early years are the most crucial for learning and adding a state-funded pre-Kindergarten option would be an excellent investment in our children and in our future. I would be happy to answer any questions.



Position Statement State Preschool Funding

North Dakota Head Start Association represents over 3500 children and their families enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start programs across the state.

Position Adopted

The NDHSA believes that all families should have equal access to preschool programs through a statewide system of collaboration with existing Head Start programs that already provide comprehensive high quality services to at-risk children and their families.

Justification

Research into high quality preschool programs has repeatedly demonstrated a high return for every dollar invested. Economists have estimated the return as high as 16%. Children who attended high quality preschool programs were less likely to need special education, less likely to repeat a grade, more likely to graduate from high school, and earned higher wages once they entered the labor market. Recent graduates of state-funded prekindergarten programs have scored significantly higher on tests of reading, language, mathematics, and cognition upon entry into kindergarten. Some states have adopted the comprehensive services required by the Head Start Performance Standards for their state-funded prekindergarten programs.

Summary of Current Policy/Related issue

According to the National Institute for Early Education and Research, state-funded pre-kindergarten enrollment over the past five years has increased from 700,000 children to more than 900,000 children today. However, access to prekindergarten or preschool services varies greatly from state to state with a high of 63% in New Jersey to a low of 34% in North Dakota. Collaboration with Head Start programs can provide a high quality model for state funded prekindergarten programs.

Contact for further information

Julie Quamme, North Dakota Head Start Association President
701-572-2346
jqamme@nemontel.net

North Dakota Head Start Association

"To be an empowering leader for positive change in families"

12-06-2006

**Better Outcomes for All:
Promoting Partnerships between Head Start and State Pre-K**

Key to Success:

Purposeful Coordination between state pre-k and Head Start will:

1. Maximize resources
2. Avoid duplication
3. Improve quality of programs
4. Lengthen the contact time
5. Increase efficiency
6. Streamline service delivery

Recommendations to help policymakers craft successful collaborations to ensure access to needed services for eligible children and families:

1. Provide federal and state leadership to promote collaboration.
2. Include Head Start as an eligible provider of services in the state pre-k system.
3. Provide the highest quality of services defined by each of the partnering programs.
4. Provide new resources to ensure that quality programs are available on a full-day basis to more children.
5. Maintain Head Start's comprehensive services for children in poverty.
6. Help providers design programs that meet the needs of the children they serve.
7. Provide the professional development and compensation that teachers need to obtain bachelor's degrees and certification in early childhood education.

For more information and a full paper on this brief, go to
www.preknowinfocenter.org/ct/j7wCzCK1imiv

HB 1320
30 Jan 07

Testimony in support of HB 1320
A bill for an Act to establish a pre-kindergarten program

Good morning, Chairperson Kelsch and House Education Committee members. I am Dave Steckler, Principal of Mary Stark Elementary School in Mandan. Mary Stark School serves 250 students in grades K-6 and currently 63% of our families participate in the free and reduced meal program.

I am here in support of House Bill 1320 because I see it as an opportunity to help pre-school children prepare for meeting the academic challenges they will face during their elementary school education.

In previous schools that I have served as elementary principal, I have found that some students come to school not prepared for the academic challenges. With the accountability of No Child Left Behind, it is imperative that the public schools begin to reach children earlier to meet the demanding requirements of No Child Left Behind. We must begin to think outside the box on how we are going to reach those children that are not prepared for the academic requirements in our public schools. Schools are being asked to make adequate yearly progress. In order to meet the requirements that have been set upon us with adequate yearly progress, we must begin to provide opportunities for our at risk students earlier to help them be successful in their educational years.

I look forward to the opportunity in meeting the needs of the at-risk children by providing a service to the children and families, which would give them the necessary skills to be successful in our public schools.

I would be happy to answer any questions.

*Madam Chairperson
Member of the Committee
Del Quigley-Principal Lincoln Elementary Dickinson*

My name is Del Quigley and I am Principal at Lincoln Elementary in Dickinson, North Dakota. I am here to discuss HB 1320.

This past fall, the kindergarten staff, Early Childhood Center, Head Start, and myself organized and instituted a pre kindergarten program in August for at-risk students entering kindergarten. We selected 30 at-risk students that either attended Head Start or Dickinson Public School's Early Childhood Center. The formal results are listed on Page 3 of the handout provided. As you can see, of the 29 students that attended, 18 were ready for kindergarten with 11 still in need of assistance. This was only a 3- week, all day program.

A benefit the kindergarten teachers saw at the beginning of school that we didn't anticipate was "Jump Start" students were the leaders of their class. Even those students that scored "Marginally Ready" or "Not Ready" were familiar with the schedule and knew the language of the classroom, story time, calendar time, show and tell, etc. Therefore, teachers had 29 less students in need of extra time just to get ready for the day.

Research shows that students that are behind when they enter kindergarten never "catch up". The gap will just continue to widen. In today's kindergarten, students need to enter knowing their abc's, counting to ten, writing their first name, and be able to sit, listen and contribute to a story. Students that enter kindergarten not knowing these basics are behind their peers from day one. While those students that are not ready are working to "catch up", their peers are continuing to move forward and learn, they don't remain static and wait for the others.

The mandates of "No Child Left Behind" are very clear, students must be proficient in reading and math by third grade. If we are to meet those mandates, we must do things differently. If we continue to do things the same way, we will get the same results. I believe expanding current pre kindergarten programs or doing trial programs as proposed in this bill is an important first step.

I have students each year entering kindergarten not ready to learn. Yes, some of those students are from families that are less than desirable; however, most are from families where one or both parents are working one or more jobs to make ends meet. In Southwest North Dakota, 85% of our parents are working outside of the home. Of the 15% not working, most are from families that one parent earns enough to support the family and one is a full-time parent. The children in those families I don't worry about, they enter kindergarten ready to learn.

The lack of quality child care and pre school opportunities for working parents leads to children entering school not ready to learn. I have had average intelligence, middle income students enter kindergarten soiling and wetting their clothes regularly. It's hard for the kindergarten teacher to work on reading readiness while changing diapers.

Again, I ask your support of HB1320.

Jump Start "Pre Kindergarten Program"
July 31 to August 18, 2006

30 Students Registered
29 Completed

Scholastic Kindergarten Readiness Test

- a. Administered during month of September
 - b. Required by DPI
 - c. Student scores fall into four categories
- 1. Ready+ Students would be able to enter instruction with very little attention
 - 2. Ready Students would require typical amount of special attention given incoming students
 - 3. Marginally Ready Students would likely require some special attention, at least early in instruction
 - 4. Not Ready Students would require special attention both before and during early instruction

Jump Start Students

R+	6	21%
R	12	41%
MR	9	31%
NR	2	7%

1320
30 Jan 07

**TESTIMONY ON HB1320
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

J-71

1/30/2007

by **Tricia R. Lang, Assistant Director**

328-2295

Department of Public Instruction

Madam Chairperson and members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Tricia Lang and I am Assistant Director of School Approval and Accreditation with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to speak in favor of HB 1320 relating to the approval of early childhood education programs.

You have heard many speak today in support of early childhood education programs and the research supporting the successes found in providing young children with a good educational start. Early childhood education at the national level demonstrates the important role state-funded prekindergarten education provides for children and families. According to a recent publication on legislative budgets for the 2007 fiscal year published by *PreK Now*, 31 states increased funding for prekindergarten education, up to \$450 million, along with three states which are anticipating an increase in their funding as well. Six states have maintained their current funding amounts and only ten states, including North Dakota, have no state funded prekindergarten programs.

HB 1320 will allow a few public schools to implement quality prekindergarten programs for four-year-olds. North Dakota is fortunate to have Head Start providing educational services to eligible students before age 5. However Head Start alone can not meet the needs of families who want to participate in these services. We are not looking at replacing one service with another. We will work collaboratively with early childhood programs to serve four year old students needing quality educational services for their future success.

The Department will provide grants to form three programs through public schools wishing to provide quality prekindergarten. HB 1320 establishes the Department's role in providing funding and assessment of prekindergarten programs for four-year-olds. All successful applicants will provide quality programs with qualified teachers and will be monitored to assure that they operate as proposed in the grant and to provide information to the 2009 Legislative Session. The Department of Public Instruction will collaborate with representatives from elementary schools and Head Start to draft program guidelines based on the provisions set in the bill.

This is an exciting opportunity for the state of North Dakota to show support for early childhood education by passing HB 1320. I will answer any questions regarding the Departments support of the bill.

HB 1320
30 Jan 07

HOUSE BILL NO.1320

Ray Glasser Director Early Childhood Learning Center Bismarck ND

The Early Childhood Learning Center know as ECLC was started in 1978 by Ray Glasser. I was born, raised and educated in Bismarck. I have a double major in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from the U of Mary.

Eclc was one of the 1st Child Development Centers in the state to be truly called a Learning Center based on studies of how children develop and how we can help in their over all growth as a individual.

For the last 29 years our Eclc's program has established itself as one of the best programs nation wide based off our philosophy on How Kids Learn. We have grown from a 1st year enrollment of 15 families to over 450. Our staff has grown from myself to over 60 people ranging in pay from \$6.50 to \$20 per hour. We have established a training program for continued education for our staff. This education is the core of our program for retaining and training new staff who have degrees in Early Childhood Ed. from our State Universities.

I'm having a hard time understanding the concept of why the State of North Dakota and each tax paying citizens, whether they are 18 or 70 years old should be paying for pre-K children to attend public instruction. To create new state laws for pre-k, these questions arise.

1. Is the state competing with local business. Eclc has this quality program in place.
2. Funding would have to be for all pre-k families who want it. Where's the monies and space for this to come from.
3. I have never see monies given to a school district get funneled down to a private education group that are in place. How will we insure it happens here?
4. If we are concerned with low income families not being able to afford a quality Learning Center for their preschooler, lets address that issue. A voucher system that helps with tuition so their child can enroll in a private program that has been approved, not paying for those who can afford to pay.
5. Is this Bill proposing that most people can not really afford to pay the cost of a good Learning Center for their pre-k child. Guess what...over the last 29 years I have had thousands of families that do care enough about their child to tighten their budget to enroll in the best Learning Center available.
6. If the people for our state want public pre-k programs funded by each tax paying individual, let them vote on the issue at election time.

HOUSE BILL NO 1320

Ray Glasser testimony page 2

Summary

This is not a issue of pre-k programs not being available to the public.

It's a issue of public funding for a program that benefits children that would over lap private services already in place.

Let our private business continue to provide their services, at no added cost to tax payers.

Let private business work together with state agencies to reach those who can not afford a good Learning Center for children who are determined to be at risk.

Let private business help bring monies into the state instead of taking it away.

Chairman Freborg and members of the Senate Education Committee,

For the record my name is JoNell Bakke and I am a senator from district 43 in Grand Forks. I am here today in support of HB1320 which calls for the approval and appropriation of funds to support early childhood education programs within our state. As an educator, parent, foster parent, and now a state senator, I firmly believe in early intervention programs for children.

Many studies have been done on early childhood intellectual performance and the data has shown that children who participated in preschool programming had significantly better intellectual performance than the students who did not participate. This gain was seen for a year or two thereafter. A comprehensive meta-analysis identified 50 Head Start studies that found evidence of immediate improvements in children's intellectual and socio emotional performance and health that lasted several years (McKey et al., 1985).

Some critics of preschool programs state that the positive effects of preschool programs fade away over time. However, clear evidence of the gradual disappearance of effects has been found only for gains in children's scores on tests of their intellectual performance, and not for other positive effects of programs such as social and emotional development which involves sharing, turn taking, social maturity and their abilities to adjust to social cues and social situations

I urge the committee's support of HB1320.

I will stand for any questions at this time.

To: Layton Freborg, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee

From: Barb Arnold-Tengesdal
North Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children
Assistant Professor of Education, University of Mary

Date: March 6, 2007

Re: Support of HB 1320

Same testimony given
to House
Education.

The North Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children (NDAEYC) is a professional organization connected with NAEYC, and currently has 380 statewide members. The mission of this association is to serve and act on the behalf of children birth to age eight. We work in collaboration with other early childhood groups around the state, such as the ND Head Start Association, ND Kindergarten Association, ND Early Childhood Higher Education Consortium, of which I am a member because of my role in teacher preparation provided at the University of Mary.

What research says about Pre- kindergarten programs for 4 year olds:

- Social performance and academic gains made in pre-k and Head Start programs do not suffer the "washout effect" as children age. (The Brookline Early Education project: A 25-year Follow-up Study, *Pediatrics* 2005).
- All children make gains in language, literacy, & math. Low-income children gain more. (Barnett et al. (2005), NIEER/Rutgers University).
- High quality early childhood programs with well-educated preschool teachers, small class size and child-teacher ratio's with high standards and accountability, have economic impacts on all sectors of government: school costs, social services, crime and health care. (Rolnick, Art, and Rob Grunewald. "Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return" Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, *Fedgazette* March 2003).
- Using "intentional curriculum" is an important strategy to reduce the achievement gap. The curriculum should use a child-focused teaching style and content-driven classroom instruction that assesses child outcomes regularly. (Klein, Lisa and Jane Knitzer. "Effective Preschool Curricula and Teaching Strategies. *Pathways to Early School Success*. National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia university. September 2006).

Is North Dakota ready for jumping into the Pre-K arena? Yes. HB 1320 is the framework for a successful start. Many of the elements necessary to support good child outcomes have been developed.

Early Learning Guidelines: The Department of Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction jointly contracted with Minot State University to create the *North Dakota Early Learning Guidelines*. These developmental curricula guidelines are in final draft form and

currently being linked with the Kindergarten standards for smooth transition. They have been reviewed extensively and piloted throughout the state.

Teacher competency and workforce development: The North Dakota Higher Education consortium has been working diligently the past two years to create an articulation agreement between all tribal, 2 year and 4 year public and private institutions to ease the transitions between programs to support teacher preparation. Early Childhood Education programs at the collegiate level are growing, in part because of the demand nationally for licensed teachers working in Pre-k, Head Start, and full-day kindergarten programs. The standards utilized by ESPB for early childhood education teacher licensure are congruent with national standards, and set a level of teacher preparation and knowledge that is measured by Praxis I and Praxis II standardized exams along with 8- 10 weeks of full-time student teaching. The teachers being prepared in North Dakota are well versed in implementing a child-center teaching approach, and familiar with research-based curricula that is tied to program standards and child outcomes. The number of ECE majors is growing at our universities. North Dakota has been a great source of the finest teachers for many other states. Unfortunately, we outsource some of our best. This is a great start to keeping them in North Dakota.

Classroom space: The model for pre-k delivery identified in HB 1320 sets in motion the possibilities for many types of locations and program models. In rural areas, it might be a school room no longer being utilized or expanding a Head Start classroom. A school district could contract with a local preschool program employing a licensed teacher to try a community classroom approach. A pilot project such as the one described in this bill, allows us the opportunity to explore and study how a variety of models would work in our rural state.

HB 1320 is an innovative advancement in education for North Dakota. Please consider a "Do-Pass" vote for this bill.

**TESTIMONY ON HB1320
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

3/6/2007

by Tricia R. Lang, Assistant Director

328-2295

Department of Public Instruction

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HB 1320 will allow a few public schools to implement quality prekindergarten programs for four-year-olds. North Dakota is fortunate to have Head Start providing educational services to eligible students before age 5. As earlier testimony has shared, Head Start alone can not meet the needs of families who want to participate in these services. We are not looking at replacing one service with another. We will work collaboratively with early childhood programs to serve four year old students needing quality educational services for their future success.

HB 1320 establishes the Department's role in providing funding and assessment of prekindergarten programs for four-year-olds. The Department will provide grants to a few programs through public schools wishing to provide quality prekindergarten. Our offices will collaborate with representatives from elementary schools and Head Start to draft program guidelines based on the provisions set in the bill. We have researched similar programs in other states to assist us in developing those guidelines. The Department will review applications and determine which programs are successful in meeting the provisions to begin this next school year. All successful applicants will provide quality programs with qualified teachers and will be monitored for two years to assure that they operate as proposed in the grant and to provide information to the 2009 Legislative Session.

The Department wants to assist schools in providing quality educational services to children within each community. This is an exciting opportunity for the state of North Dakota to show support for early childhood education by passing HB 1320. I will answer any questions regarding the Department's support of the bill.

Ray Glasser Director Early Childhood Learning Center Bismarck ND

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Let our private business continue to provide their services, at no added cost to tax payers.

Let private business work together with state agencies to reach those who can not afford a good Learning Center for children who are determined to be at risk.

Let private business help make monies for the state vs spending state monies and taxing home owners.