

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & AGING

Call to Order: By Rep. Angela Russell, Chair, on April 18, 1991,
at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Angela Russell, Chair (D)
Tim Whalen, Vice-Chairman (D)
Arlene Becker (D)
Brent Cromley (D)
Stella Jean Hansen (D)
Royal Johnson (R)
Betty Lou Kasten (R)
Thomas Lee (R)
Sheila Rice (D)
Wilbur Spring (R)
Carolyn Squires (D)
Jessica Stickney (D)
Rolph Tunby (R)

Members Excused: William Boharski, Jan Brown, Tim Dowell,
Patrick Galvin, Charlotte Messmore, Jim Rice, Bill Strizich

Staff Present: David Niss, Legislative Council
Jeanne Krumm, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

HEARING ON HJR 54

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. VIVIAN BROOKE, House District 56, Missoula, stated that this resolution deals with the issue of family services and the groups that were involved with children and family services. This resolution is to establish an interim study on children and family. Basically, the contents of the bill is the study of the Healthy Start Program, which was an area of concern to study the methods of interagency coordination of programs developed for programs and services and to strengthen the families and to assess these children.

Proponents' Testimony:

Jim Ortwein, Montana Catholic Conference, submitted written testimony. EXHIBIT 1

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

Tom Olson, Director, Department of Family Services (DFS), stated that everything that is in this bill DFS believes in. DFS believes in putting the family first and strengthening families by keeping children in the home until the last possible resort. This is part of DFS's plan of reorganization. This should work in terms of money.

Questions From Committee Members:

REP. STICKNEY asked would it be helpful to have an interim committee and is there going to be legislation coming out of that. Mr. Olson stated that the interim committee would assist DFS on family services, helps because DFS is short on resources. Any one that can provide input to DFS is certainly welcome. DFS has identified the Family Policy Act.

REP. KASTEN asked is there any difference between a legislative oversight committee and an interim committee. David Niss stated that there is a great deal of difference. Study committees are established only during a specific biennium to study a given issue identified in a bill or resolution. What is meant by a legislative oversight committee is what the legislative staff refers to as a statutory committee. It meets continuously and is establishing pertinent law. From the language that is used and the implied purpose from that language, it is meant by oversight committee.

REP. KASTEN asked is that the intent of the committee. REP. BROOKE stated that is exactly what the original bill said that the resolution was taken from. It proposed if a legislative oversight committee amended the bill, the state at this time, has established that sort of committee. This is another direction for the study to be comfortable with the oversight committee.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. BROOKE stated that there is need for more coordination and planning for families and children. A careful look is definitely needed by the legislature to try to bring in legislation that would put Montana into a more preventive crises management. We need to work in our effort to try to make more use of our limited resources.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJR 54

Motion: REP. LEE MOVED HJR 54 DO PASS.

Discussion:

REP. KASTEN stated that she cannot support this legislative oversight committee, I can support a study group. REP. RUSSELL stated that it seems that this resolution calls to explore the capability of a legislative oversight committee.

REP. JOHNSON stated that when it comes to prioritizing the money needs, nobody will attach anything to this bill as it goes through the process. There is an absolute need for this type of thing in Montana. This may set a new direction for care in the state and that is really important.

REP. SQUIRES stated that in 1987 when DFS was established, we did not fund that program and we have continued to not fund the program. DFS has been a sort of stepchild to the whole system of delivery to family and children in the social program.

REP. HANSEN stated that this is a good resolution.

REP. SPRING stated that he is impressed with the intent of this resolution. Mr. Olson stated that some of this is being done. He is pro family and we can achieve any of these goals, he will support this legislation.

David Niss stated that nobody every challenges a joint resolution requiring a legislature to conduct a study. For purposes of clarity.

Motion/Vote: REP. LEE moved to amend HJR 54. Motion carried unanimously.

Title, line 6.
Following: "INTERIM"
Insert: "STUDY"

Title, line 7.
Following: "FAMILIES"
Insert: "; AND DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE TO REPORT ITS
FINDINGS TO THE 53RD LEGISLATURE"

Page 3, line 5.
Following: "interim"
Insert: "study"

Page 4, lines 4.
Following: "of"
Insert: "establishing"
Following: "a"
Insert: "statutory"

Motion/Vote: REP. LEE MOVED HJR 54 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:00 p.m.



ANGELA RUSSELL, Chair



Jeanne Krumm, Secretary

AR/jck

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE 4-18-91

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. ANGELA RUSSELL, CHAIR	✓		
REP. TIM WHALEN, VICE-CHAIR	✓		
REP. ARLENE BECKER	✓		
REP. WILLIAM BOHARSKI			✓
REP. JAN BROWN			✓
REP. BRENT CROMLEY	✓		
REP. TIM DOWELL			✓
REP. PATRICK GALVIN			✓
REP. STELLA JEAN HANSEN	✓		
REP. ROYAL JOHNSON	✓		
REP. BETTY LOU KASTEN	✓		
REP. THOMAS LEE	✓		
REP. CHARLOTTE MESSMORE			✓
REP. JIM RICE			✓
REP. SHEILA RICE	✓		
REP. WILBUR SPRING	✓		
REP. CAROLYN SQUIRES	✓		
REP. JESSICA STICKNEY	✓		
REP. BILL STRIZICH			✓
REP. ROLPH TUNBY	✓		

HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

3:43

4-18-91

JDB

April 18, 1991

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Human Services and Aging report that House Joint Resolution 54 (first reading copy -- white) do pass as amended .

Signed: Angela Russell
Angela Russell, Chairman

And, that such amendments read:

1. Title, line 6.

Following: "INTERIM"

Insert: "STUDY"

2. Title, line 7.

Following: "FAMILIES"

Insert: "; AND DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO
THE 53RD LEGISLATURE"

3. Page 3, line 5.

Following: "interim"

Insert: "study"

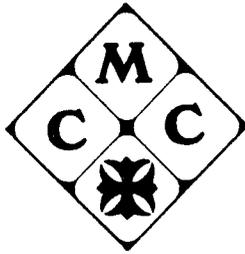
4. Page 4, line 4.

Following: "of"

Insert: "establishing"

Following: "a"

Insert: "statutory"



Montana Catholic Conference

EXHIBIT _____
DATE 4-18-91
HJR 54

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 54

REQUEST FOR AN INTERIM STUDY REQUEST ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

APRIL 18, 1991

MADAM CHAIRMAN RUSSELL AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

I am John Ortwein representing the Montana Catholic Conference.

The most recent edition of Charities USA, published by Catholic Charities in Washington, D.C., tells of a Consortium of Family Organizations which is developing the outlines for a proposal for pro-family governmental reform.

The Consortium will undertake the following tasks:

1. Coordinate, synthesize, and make accessible family-related data collected by dozens of offices throughout the federal government;
2. Monitor, continuously and systematically, changing family trends and their implications for public policy;
3. Assess the impact of actual and proposed policies on family life; and,
4. Help develop and implement policies that are family-centered.

As Catholic Charities supports the aforementioned study on the federal level, so we support HJR 54 in the State of Montana. Families are our most basic and precious social unit. We must work to preserve it.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VISITOR'S REGISTER

Human Services & Aging COMMITTEE BILL NO. HJR 54
 DATE 4-18-91 SPONSOR(S) Rep Vivian Brooke

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	BILL	OPPOSE	SUPPORT
Tom Olsen	DFS	HJR 54		
JOHN ORTWEIN	MT CATHOLIC CONF	HJR 54		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.