

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 31, 1983

The meeting of the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Bob Brown on January 31, 1983, at 1:05 p.m. in Room 402, State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: Roll was called with all present except Senator Blaylock who was excused.

SENATE BILL 240: Senator McCallum, District 12, sponsor of the bill, state the bill was introduced at the request of the Legislative Finance Committee. The bill allows the trustees of a local district the authority to levy additional monies for salaries, benefits, operations, and equipment for vocational-technical centers. At present, budgets are approved by the legislature. However, salaries are negotiated by the districts and often do not mesh with the budgeted amounts. In some instances, vo-techs are doing without materials and equipment because of budget restrictions due to salaries.

PROPONENTS

Nancy Walter, representing the Montana Education Association, stated the bill would give local districts greater flexibility in administration of vo-tech facilities. The sometimes pressing needs for equipment, materials, and plain basics for instruction are detrimental to student training and employment.

There being no opponents to the bill, the hearing was closed.

SENATE BILL 282: Senator Fuller, District 15, sponsor of the bill, stated the bill mandates special education for multihandicapped and deaf blind children between the ages of 3 and 5. The fiscal note states funding would be \$120,000 in 1984, \$128,000 in 1985. Senator Fuller cited a study which showed handicapped children develop 50% of their intellectual ability before age 3 and 80% before age 5. The more effort that is expended in pre-school education efforts the fewer dollars that are going to be needed for education and maintenance later. Many handicapped children who receive full pre-school services are able to enter the normal classroom by age 6 due to the social/emotional support and preparation provided

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by pre-school activities. Looking further down the road, these children will often be able to be employed and be contributing taxpayers if they are given the right start. There is less institutionalization needed and less sought due to services being available in the community. Senator Fuller noted the cost of special education is increased with the age the child enters the program. Average costs are: entry at birth - \$30,000, entry at 3 years - \$37,000, entry at 6 years - \$46,000, and entry at age 6 with no previous training - \$53,000.

PROPOSERS

Judith Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, spoke in support of the bill (attached exhibit #1).

Susan Duffy, a parent of a multihandicapped child, stated Missoula is one of the only major cities in the state that dropped the pre-school program when it became permissive. She described her daughter, Keogh, as being Down's Syndrome with complications resulting in a permanent tracheotomy and a necessity for constant supervision and care. She noted the \$120,000 estimated cost for the program is only half of what their medical bills have been in the past two years.

Mrs. Duffy said her daughter has received services from the Comprehensive Development Center since she was six months old. She has been attending the Big Sky Early Education Center (pre-school) sponsored by the Montana University Affiliated Program for the last four months, attending mornings three times a week. Mrs. Duffy said she has made great strides in her cognitive, social and emotional development since attending the pre-school and is currently learning to communicate by signing, which due to the tracheotomy is her only means of communication. Mrs. Duffy noted the staff had also been very cooperative in learning to deal with Keogh's medical problems and she feels very secure in leaving her with the staff of the center. Mrs. Duffy said the prognosis for Keogh is to be able to read and hold a job and partially, if not fully, support herself. This, of course, is dependent upon adequate and proper training being available from this point on. Mrs. Duffy likened pre-school to a homeowner with a leaky roof. It may cost \$50 to fix the roof now, but if he waits two years it will cost \$2000. However, if he is only renting the home, he can put off doing anything.

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She said local schools are like renters. The permissive system offers no financial incentive to continue pre-schools. It is to the state's advantage to mandate pre-school education in terms of savings in later education, supplemental support dollars, and tax dollars.

The University of Washington Pre-school has 65% of the students leaving the pre-school enroll in regular classrooms and 23% needing support services but having the same level of functioning ability.

She further stated parents are not asking the committee to take over parental responsibilities for them. However, many are in debt over their heads for medical and support services for their children and this is one area where the legislature could help children and save money at the same time. She urged the committee to support the bill.

Chip Erdman, representing the Montana School Boards Association, noted that if the bill passed, it might be a problem in smaller school districts.

Alayne Dolson, representing the YWCA Pre-school, Missoula, stated their program has been serving a number of mildly retarded children with help from the Comprehensive Development Center (CDC) since the school pre-school closed. However, they are being inundated with further requests and don't have the staff or the resources to cover the requests. She said it is vital to mandate special education for, at the least, multihandicapped and deaf/blind children. She said these children have shown a marked ability to improve and make progress in a group setting especially in the social and emotional aspects of group learning. She stressed the importance of supporting pre-school programs for handicapped children.

Jean Murphy, mother of Ryan, a two and a half year old brain injured child, has been working with the Missoula Coalition for Pre-School Special Education to try to convince the Missoula school system to reinstate a pre-school. She presented a list of those groups who have signed letters of support to the committee (attached exhibit #2). Mrs. Murphy said her son, Ryan, has been enrolled in the Big Sky Early Education Center Pre-school for the last six months. She said there has been a world of difference

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in him and he has made great improvement in that time. She urged the committee to support the bill because without pre-schools doors are shutting that these children can't open by themselves.

Joyce Herndon, mother of a five and a half year old daughter with Down's Syndrome, said her daughter was born with two large holes in her heart and cataracts. The heart has been repaired but the cataracts are worsening. CDC worked with her for three years and for the last two years she has been attending the Montana University Affiliated Project (MUAP) sponsored Big Sky pre-school. Mrs. Herndon said her daughter is now in a self-contained classroom in school and is doing very well. However, she noted, she would not have been able to enter the regular school system special education program without the tremendous strides she was able to make during her pre-school years. Because of her pre-school training, Mrs. Herndon's daughter will be attending regular kindergarten classes half days and the special education class half days at age 6. She feels strongly that the social and group skills her daughter learned in the pre-school are responsible for her advancement and regrets that all children aren't afforded the opportunity for the head start pre-school offers.

Margaret Selway, Missoula Head Start, presented her testimony in support of the bill to the committee (attached exhibit #3). She also presented a letter from the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department of the University of Montana to the committee in support of the bill (attached exhibit #4).

Joe Roberts, representing the Developmental Disabilities Legislative Action Committee, which includes parents who need services, stated families are now able to keep their handicapped children at home with support services available in local communities. He noted it now costs \$50,000 a year to maintain a person in an institution. The strides in developing support services in the past seven years have been phenomenal and school services need to keep pace also. The youngest child at Boulder is eight years old and only a minimal number of school age children are there at present. He urged the committee to support the bill so children can continue to stay at home.

Terry Lynn Minow, representing the Montana Federation of Teachers, stated that group's support of the bill.

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Ellen Sallee, Missoula Head Start, presented her testimony in support of the bill (attached exhibit #5).

Clyde Muirheid, Executive Director, DDPAC, stated the Council is charged with planning and advising where appropriate for developmentally disabled people. He conveyed support for the bill from the Council.

Dr. Richard A. van den Pol, Ph.D. Director, Big Sky Early Education Center, presented testimony in support of the bill (attached exhibit #6). Dr. van den Pol stated the Big Sky Center is a pre-school funded federally for three years as a demonstration project by and large for those children who are handicapped to a degree where they might be candidates for institutionalization if intensive early intervention services were not available. He further stated that family and home service programs are excellent in Montana but there is a great need for center-based programs to develop social-emotional growth in a group situation. He said these programs can work and have documented benefits. He stressed without early intervention the cumulative deficit grows..i.e. a deaf child with no intervention functioning at a two year old level when he is eight years old.

OPPONENTS

Larry Holmquist, Director, Gallatin-Madison Special Education Co-op, stated he opposes the bill in that it does not go far enough. He pointed out we had mandatory special education from age 3-21 at one time. He urged the committee not to segregate a small number for mandatory service but to serve all the children again.

There being no further opponents, Senator Fuller closed by saying there are two main issues. First, pressure on limited resources - he pointed out the investment of \$120,000 in eight children could save a potential \$400,000 in institutional costs; second, and most important, are the children. He defied the committee to think of a group that needs the help more.

DISCUSSION: The committee asked about the fiscal note. Dal Curry, OPI, responded as he had compiled the information. The \$120,000 cost factor was arrived at by doing a cost break out based on a class of eight multihandicapped and/or deaf/blind children at \$7,000 per child. A cost estimate was also made based on the cost of educating one child in a rural area which ran \$15,000.

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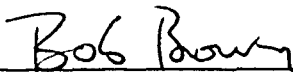
The \$120,000 was an average cost. The figure of eight children was arrived at by taking the number of 6-7-8 year old multihandicapped and/or deaf/blind children currently being served in mandatory programs - 49, (and assuming the same incidence level) subtracting the 41 multihandicapped and/or deaf/blind students being served on the permissive level for a net of 8 unserved children.

There being no further discussion the hearing was closed on Senate Bill 282.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION ON SENATE BILL 240: Senator McCallum moved Senate Bill 240 DO PASS. The motion carried unanimously with Senators Berg and Blaylock absent.

ADJOURN: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.



Senator Bob Brown, Chairman

jdr

DATE (Jan. 31, 1983

COMMITTEE ON Education

VISITORS' REGISTER SB 240 SB 282

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
Margaret Salway	Missoula Head Start	282	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elied Sallee	Head Start - Msgr	282	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judy Johnson	Office of Public Instruction	282	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brenda Schye	Self	282	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chip Erdmann	MT School Bd Assoc	282	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe Roberts	DD / Leg. Action Com.	282	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inel Christensen	OPI	240	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clyde Muirheid	DD PAC	282	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P. Joehler	LFA	240	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Vander Pol	Univ. of MT - MUAP	282	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

NAME: Nancy C. Walter DATE: 1/31/82

ADDRESS: NEA, 1232 E. Sixth Ave., Helena

PHONE: 442-4250

REPRESENTING WHOM? NEA

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: Senate Bill 240

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: _____

NEA sees that local districts
who're charged with administering
Vo Tech Centers would enjoy a
greater and badly needed flexibility
to determine local needs and
financing possibilities for these Centers.

Exhibit #1
January 31, 1983



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

STATE CAPITOL
HELENA, MONTANA 59620
(406) 449-3095

Ed Argenbright
Superintendent

January 31, 1983

To: Chairman Bob Brown and Members
Senate Education Committee

From: Judith A. Johnson
Assistant Superintendent
Department of Special Services
Telephone: 449-3693

Re: SB282--A bill for an Act entitled: "An Act to provide that after September 1, 1984, the trustees of every school district must establish and maintain a special education program for multihandicapped and deaf/blind children between the ages of 3 and 5, inclusive; to define the terms 'multihandicapped' and 'deaf/blind' for special education purposes; amending Sections 20-7-401 and 20-7-411, MCA; and providing a delayed effective date."

In 1979, the laws on mandatory preschool programs were repealed and permissive legislation introduced and passed. Since that time, two things have occurred: an increase in children in the preschool level (currently there are 1,601 preschoolers, ages 1-5, receiving special education services) and districts have worked out all kinds of shared services for these children. As well you know, the preschool level has several programs available such as Head Start, Developmental Disabilities, Outreach programs and private day care and preschool programs.

Forty-one of the preschool children, ages 3, 4 and 5, are deaf/blind or multihandicapped and are currently being served in permissive preschool programs across the state.

Forty-nine deaf/blind and/or multihandicapped children, ages 6, 7 and 8, are currently being served in mandatory special education programs across the state.

Assuming the incidence of ages 3, 4 and 5 is the same as for ages 6, 7 and 8, we conclude that approximately 8 preschool deaf/blind and/or multihandicapped are not being provided services. We are also presuming these children are residing in small rural communities. Our estimate on cost for this category for teacher, aide, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and equipment and materials is approximately \$15,350 per child, excluding the transportation cost. Please note we are assuming districts have enough room and are able to locate teachers, and we are also assuming there are only 8 students. This number could be twice as high.

Chairman Bob Brown and Members
Senate Education Committee
January 31, 1983
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It is also necessary for the committee to take into account that once a child is in preschool the child cannot be dropped for any reason according to federal law.

We concur with Senator Fuller that early intervention with any child is the most desirable situation. Mandating services on a local district in a permissive area, especially an area where other agencies have the same mandate, without funding the program for local districts, is taking from all other areas of education for all other children. We urge the committee to adequately fund this program in order not to further burden the school districts.

NAME: Jessie Duffy DATE: Jan. 31

ADDRESS: 340 North Ave. West, Missoula 59801

PHONE: 542-2564

REPRESENTING WHOM? self

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: S.B. 282

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENTS: A major cost-benefit study of the value of pre-school education to multiply-handicapped children showed that \$9,000 - to \$16,000 per child can be saved in educational costs to age 18 if the child attends an appropriate preschool. Because of the way funding is provided in the state of Montana for special education, it is the state which ~~pay~~ profits by these savings rather than local school boards. There are even greater savings to the state when lessened costs to S.R.S. as the child becomes an adult are considered. Therefore, it is to the state's advantage to mandate preschool for handicapped children.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Alayne O. Dison DATE: 1-31-83

ADDRESS: 1134 Poplar, Missoula, MT.

PHONE: 728-6921

REPRESENTING WHOM? YWCA Pre-School - Missoula

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 282

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: Our pre-school has accepted mildly and moderately handicapped students for 5 yrs. We see an imperative need to mandate public pre-school education for these children. The private pre-school cannot fulfill the needs of all handicapped children.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: JEAN MURPHY

DATE: 1-31-83

ADDRESS: 911 PARKVIEW WAY MISSOURI

PHONE: 728-2034

REPRESENTING WHOM? SELF

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SPECIAL ED. 282

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: Please don't let the issue of money
stay these children from a chance to function
on a higher level than they would have
with out preschool.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

Exhibit #2
January 28, 1983

MEMBERS OF MISSOULA COALITION FOR PRESCHOOL
SPECIAL ED.

REGION V ADVISORY COUNCIL

MISSOULA COUNTY TRADES & LABOR

HANDICAPPED STUDENT UNION - UOFM

SOUTHSIDE LIONS - MISSOULA

MISSOULA SENIOR CITIZENS.

WESTERN MT. M.S. CENTER

EVA AMUNDSON BROWN

MISSOULA CITY - CO. HEALTH DEPT

OPPORTUNITY WORKSHOP

MISSOULA ADVOCACY PROGRAM

AMERICAN LEGION POST #101

PARENT TO PARENT - MSLA

MT. COALITION OF HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

CHILD CARE RESOURCES.

SUMMIT

MISSOULA YOUTH HOMES BOARD

COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

INTL ASSOC OF FIREFIGHTERS

5 VALLEY HEALTH CARE

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL - MISSOULA

MT. RIGHT TO LIFE

WOMENS PLACE

*signed letter of
Endorsement*

NAME: Joyce Herndon DATE: 1-31-83

ADDRESS: 2150 Tipperary Way Msia.

PHONE: 721-1345

REPRESENTING WHOM? Self

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: Special Ed. 282

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: Our children need and deserve a chance
to a good in their lives, we must provide this
to them so they might have a better life
Please support this bill.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Margaret Selway DATE: 1/31/83

ADDRESS: 1606 Cooper Missoula

PHONE: 728-1855

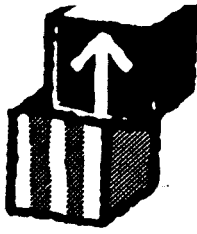
REPRESENTING WHOM? Missoula, Head Start

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 282

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: See testimony

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.



140 SOUTH SIXTH EAST
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59801

728-5460
728-5461

HEAD START

January 28, 1983

IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 282

Head Start of Missoula, like other Head Starts nationally, is mandated to serve handicapped children roughly in proportion to their occurrence in the population at large - 10 to 13%. Two part-time employees, a 30 hour per week speech pathologist and a 25 hour per week handicap coordinator, are employed in our agency to serve the special needs of these children. In the past, mainly mildly handicapped children have been enrolled, a large proportion of whom were speech/language impaired in keeping with the design of the program, which has emphasized mainstreaming these children into regular classes with supportive services from the Handicap Coordinator and Speech Therapist.

With the phase out of the School District #1 Preschool Program in Missoula, the demand for handicapped children to be served in Head Start has increased. We are currently serving 24 handicapped children in Missoula and Mineral counties - nearly 15%, or over the federally suggested maximum enrollment for this population at least 4 more children are currently being evaluated because of teacher concerns or who failed our screening process during recent enrollment. Our part-time staff has no time left in their already packed schedules to serve these children, should continuing assessment reveal that they too warrant a handicap diagnosis. In addition, we have had to turn away 6 children whose families requested they be enrolled. The numbers would probably be higher had Head Start not sent out a letter in October to referring agencies (the U of M Speech Pathology Department, the Public School, the Comprehensive Development Center, to name a few) placing a "freeze" on additional handicap enrollment. In addition, 5 handicapped children initially slated to be enrolled in Head Start for the current year either moved away or dropped out of the program.

Head Start will not be able to serve this many handicapped children during the upcoming school year. We feel we can do a better job serving the children Head Start was designed to serve, and we do not feel it will help our community in the long run to spread our services too thin trying to serve a population which, until recently, was more appropriately served by the public schools. Because of this year's overload, we are currently revising our criteria in terms of both numbers (sticking strictly to the 10% or so handicap enrollment recommended by the Federal Government) and severity of children to be served. This year, because of lack of public school services, the severity of involvement in the handicapped children Head Start does serve has increased. For instance, we have enrolled a retarded/emotionally disturbed child who is requiring an inordinate amount of staff time just to be helped to function in his class setting. Many children are both severely learning disabled and speech/language impaired, requiring services of several staff members. The fact that these children - most of whom come from families well below the poverty line - deserves services is unquestioned. The fact that these children benefit from our program even with the less than optimal services Head Start can provide the more severely impaired children (compared to the small class sizes and individual attention they would receive in a public school preschool program is equally clear.

For example, one child was enrolled two years ago after receiving a diagnosis of mental retardation from the evaluating agency. After 2 years in Head Start the diagnosis was changed to learning disabled. He was able to function relatively successfully in his public school kindergarten this year with some resource help. It would appear, then, that intervention during these critical years when children are more malleable and when stimulating environments are so critical, is cost-effective in the long run as well as morally desirable.

The cost of maintaining one student in a self-contained program for the handicapped is large; the cost of maintaining an adult on welfare and foodstamps (or in an institution) is far larger. The potential for avoiding these financial consequences through optimum stimulation for children in the pre-school years should not be ignored.

At a time when federal funding for school programs is being cut, we must look close to home, here in Montana. The handicapped members of our population are among us. Their needs and the needs of their families must not be ignored. Most parents cannot act alone to give their handicapped children the optimum stimulation and remediation programs necessary to help them achieve their full learning - and eventually earning - potential. The cost of ignoring them during their most critical years of learning - both in human terms and financial cost, as they grow older - is too great to pay.

Molly M.Ed., M.A.
Handicap Coordinator

Margaret Schwaeg
Educator Coordinator

Sue Lantello MA CCC
Speech Pathologist

Scott M. Anderson
Director



University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812

Testimony for Senate Bill 282

To Whom It May Concern:

In Missoula the local school district has ceased to provide services to handicapped children between the ages of three to five years. As a result, other agencies have tried to help these children; the University of Montana Speech, Hearing and Language Clinic has been one of these agencies able to see each child for only three to five hours each week. This level of service, while appropriate for mild to moderately handicapped children, is not intensive enough for multiply handicapped, deaf/blind children.

Most families cannot afford to purchase the intensity of training required for severely handicapped children. Agencies cannot afford to provide the services where there is no financial support. The local Head Start Program has over-enrolled the number of handicapped children so that each child receives less special help than he needs; they refuse to enroll severely handicapped children because they simply cannot provide an adequate program.

It is clear that severely handicapped children will not have access to the appropriate intensive programs needed unless they are funded by taxpayers money. It is also clear that some local school boards will refuse to provide funding for programs that are not mandatory. The only solution is to require that school districts provide such services. Such intensive programs should also be available to children who are either deaf or blind.

We strongly encourage you to pass this bill with the added categories of deaf or blind.

Michael J.M. Raffin, Ph.D.
Director of Audiology

Barbara Bain, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Beverly R. Reynolds, M.A.
Clinic Coordinator

Richard M. Boehmler, Ph.D.
Director of Speech Pathology

NAME: Joe Roberts DATE: _____

ADDRESS: 729 Eleventh Ave.

PHONE: 443-1551

REPRESENTING WHOM? D.P. Leg. Action Committee

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 282

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Terry Lynn Minow DATE: _____

ADDRESS: Box 513, Boulder, MT 59632

PHONE: 225-4397

REPRESENTING WHOM? Montana Federation of Teachers

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 282

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Ellen Sallee DATE: 1/31/83

ADDRESS: 336 S 4th W Missoula MT

PHONE: 728-4937

REPRESENTING WHOM? Head Start - Missoula

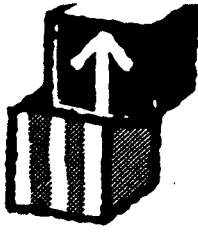
APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 282

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: See testimony

It is unfortunate that the Federal
Funds have been pulled out
supporting preschool handicap intervention.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.



140 SOUTH SIXTH EAST
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59801

728-5460
728-5461

HEAD START

January 31, 1983

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I would like to voice my support for SB 282.

Last year the major federal handicap legislation was changed and in essence does not require that special services be provided to preschool children.

It is my contention that the preschool years are the most important formative years. It is very crucial to identify handicapping conditions early in life and then to provide early intervention to teach the child the skills necessary to compensate for or adapt to the handicap.

It has been my experience that without a preschool placement available in the public school systems appropriate intervention for the handicapped child falls short within the community.

I do not think it should be an option whether or not to provide services to preschool handicapped children.

As our economy stands, money flow is tight. More and more districts will opt to go toward what appears to be the cheapest route, therefore offering the minimal services mandated by federal law.

In terms of long-range planning, however, preschoolers should be the top priority. Early intervention has been shown to decrease the need for intervention and, at times, has even lessened the severity of the diagnosis.

Again, I support SB 282. I feel it should be even more inclusive in regard to all handicapping conditions but it is a step toward the right direction.

Sincerely,

Ellen Sallee, BSN, RN

ES/pw

NAME: Clyde Muirheid DATE: 31 Jan 83

ADDRESS: DDPAC Box 4210

PHONE: 449-3878

REPRESENTING WHOM? DDPAC

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 282

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: preschool, special ed programs mean,
unequivocally, improvement in the human
condition of participants and marked
reduction in long-term financial assis-
tance to these persons.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Richard A Vander Pol DATE: 1/31/83

ADDRESS: MUAP - Univ. of MT

PHONE: 243-5467

REPRESENTING WHOM? Univ. of MT - MT. Univ Aff. l. Prog

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 282

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.



BIG SKY EARLY EDUCATION CENTER
Montana University Affiliated Program
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812
(406) 243-5467

January 31, 1983

Richard A. van den Pol, Ph.D.
Director, Big Sky Early Education Center

SUMMARY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT AN EARLY EDUCATION MANDATE

- 1.0 The technology of early education for the target population has been documented, and is already present in Montana, for example:
 - 1.1 Montana Center for Handicapped Children, Billings,
 - 1.2 Big Sky Early Education Center, Missoula, and
 - 1.3 School for Deaf and Blind, Great Falls.

- 2.0 Children who evidence the indicated handicaps are, by definition, significantly delayed relative to their same age nonhandicapped peers. Failure to intervene at the earliest possible time shall result in "cumulative delays." That is, without intervention, a four year old who functions at a one year old level can be expected to function, at best, at a two year old level when he is eight years old. This cumulative deficit can be prevented through early intervention.

- 3.0 Early education benefits not only handicapped children and their families, but also taxpayers. Some longitudinal research studies (Weikart, 1980) suggest that total economic benefits result in a 248 percent return on original program investment.

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JAN, 31, 1983

The Efficacy and Cost Effectiveness of Early Education for Handicapped Infants and Preschool Children

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Wilson Riles—Superintendent of Public Instruction
Sacramento, 1982

NAME: Ramy Abrahamson DATE: 1/31/82

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 162 - Belgrade

PHONE: 388-6508

REPRESENTING WHOM? Gallatin-Madison Spec. Ed. Corp.

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 5-282

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? XX OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: Need to broaden the categories
of handicapped children included in
Bill

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 1 19 83

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

having had under consideration SENATE Bill No. 240

Respectfully report as follows: That SENATE Bill No. 240

DO PASS

11c.