

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & AGING

Call to Order: By Rep. Angela Russell, Chair, on January 9, 1991, at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Angela Russell, Chair (D)
Tim Whalen, Vice-Chairman (D)
Arlene Becker (D)
William Boharski (R)
Jan Brown (D)
Brent Cromley (D)
Tim Dowell (D)
Patrick Galvin (D)
Stella Jean Hansen (D)
Royal Johnson (R)
Betty Lou Kasten (R)
Thomas Lee (R)
Charlotte Messmore (R)
Jim Rice (R)
Sheila Rice (D)
Wilbur Spring (R)
Carolyn Squires (D)
Jessica Stickney (D)
Bill Strizich (D)
Rolph Tunby (R)

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

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

Announcements/Discussion: CHAIR RUSSELL introduced herself and asked the members to do the same. Chair Russell read the House Committee Rules of Procedure. David Niss read the services available from the Legislative Council through him. Chair Russell stated that proxy votes will be handled through the Vice-Chairman, Tim Whalen.

HEARING ON HJR 3

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. JAN BROWN, HD 46 stated that HJR 3 states that the Legislature supports the goal of the WIC program, which is the

supplemental food program for women, infants and children, to promote breast feeding in Montana.

Proponents' Testimony:

Pat Hennessy, Public Health Nutritionist, submitted written testimony. EXHIBIT 1

Karen Semple, La Leche League of Montana, submitted testimony along with a written witness statement. EXHIBIT 2

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions From Committee Members:

REP. S. RICE questioned the necessity of HJR 3. Ms. Hennessy believes that the State Legislature has power and she feels the WIC program needs that support to get backing in their press meeting initiative.

REP. S. RICE asked who would be influenced with this action. Ms. Hennessy said other health professionals, some politicians, and the general public who aren't as committed in stressing the importance of breast feeding as the WIC program.

REP. JOHNSON asked about the fiscal impact of this resolution. Ms. Hennessy said this resolution will not be costly to the state. Congress mandated that the WIC program progressively promote breast feeding in Montana. Breast feeding is cost efficient and cost effective, not only saving in insurance and hospital costs, but also reducing the WIC program costs for infant formula.

REP. KASTEN asked about the future plans of this resolution. REP. BROWN said she anticipated that the WIC program would use it in getting materials printed and in that type of way.

REP. HANSEN asked if HJR 3 would put a guilt trip on the women who choose not to breast feed. REP. BROWN stated that some women physically cannot breast feed and some simply choose not to. It is the woman's choice.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. JAN BROWN read a letter from a registered dietitian which stated that a review "shows reduced infant illness in the breastfed population. Many illnesses routinely treated by pediatricians and other physicians serving the infant population occur less frequently and/or are less severe among the breastfed populations". EXHIBIT 3. REP. BROWN said she views this resolution as part of a health issue to be addressed this session. Breast feeding is important and is something that doesn't cost anything.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJR 3

Motion:

REP. HANSEN moved adoption of House Joint Resolution 3.

Discussion:

REP. HANSEN stated that two years ago this resolution was one of the top proposals for Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies. This program has accomplished much to reduce the infant death rate in Montana. It is up to the Legislature to do its part. When mothers enter the WIC program, rather than feeding formula, they can breast feed their babies.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes:

REP. BROWN asked David Niss, Legislative Council, if he could change "breast-feeding" to "breast feeding" throughout the resolution. She asked if the title was correct. David Niss stated that the state Constitution contains the unity of title requirement which states that no bills should be passed by the Legislature that contains more than one subject and that the subject of the bill is clearly expressed in the title. There are two parts to the bill, first that the bill not contain more than one subject as expressed in the title, and that the one subject be clearly expressed in the title. The specific language in the Constitution that occurs in Article 5 applies only to bills and not joint resolutions. If it applied to this resolution, the resolution probably would be found constitutional.

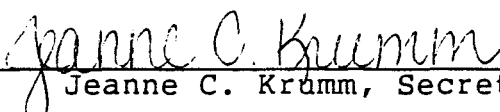
Recommendation and Vote:

CHAIR RUSSELL called the vote. The vote was unanimous. CHAIR RUSSELL recommended that HJR 3 DO PASS.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:30 p.m.


ANGELA RUSSELL, Chair


Jeanne C. Krumm, Secretary

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE 1-9-91

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	✓		

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 10, 1991

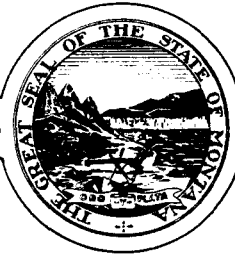
Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Human Services and Aging
report that House Joint Resolution 3 (first reading copy --
white) do pass .

Signed: _____
Angela Russell, Chairman

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 1-9-91
HJR 3



STAN STEPHENS, GOVERNOR

COGSWELL BUILDING

STATE OF MONTANA

FAX # (406) 444-2606

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

Testimony for HJR 0003

January 9, 1991

I am Pat Hennessey, a Registered Dietitian with the Montana State Health Department and assigned to the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children ---- WIC.

Health professionals have a responsibility to provide services designed to optimize the health of their clients. One such measure which has been shown to have significant advantages for infants and for the new mother is the encouragement of breastfeeding.

The nutritional and immunologic components of human milk and the physiological, psychosocial, hygienic and economic benefits of breastfeeding make it the optimal way of nurturing for infants.

Lactation also facilitates the return of the pre-pregnant state for the mother.

We have established a model program of breastfeeding care in the sixty (60) local WIC clinics statewide. The model includes breastfeeding promotion, management/care, support and follow-up. It is preventive and positive. It is valid and consistent.

We sincerely request the support of the full Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Montana in our efforts to build a healthy Montana.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia A. Hennessey".

Patricia A. Hennessey, M.S., R.D.
Public Health Nutritionist
Montana State Health Department/WIC
444-4740

Home: 701 E. 6th. Ave., Helena
442-7108

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 1-9-91
HJE-3

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME Karen Semple BUDGET _____
ADDRESS Star Rt 175 Clancy MT 59634
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? La Leche League of Montana
SUPPORT X OPPOSE _____ AMEND _____

COMMENTS: "Breastfeeding needs to become the social and community norm. The office and hospital should openly support breastfeeding. The members of the medical team prenatally, intrapartum, and postpartum should be familiar with the physiologic principles that underlie successful management of lactation." RA. Lawrence, MD. Clin Perinatology, 1987
Breastfeeding affects infant survival. Breastfeeding enhances infant development. Breastfeeding has long term benefits. "The risk of children developing cancer before the age of 15 is increased 1 to 8 times for children who were artificially fed as infants as opposed to those children who were breastfed ~~over~~ over 6 mos." MK. Davis et al, Lancet 1988

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1-9-91
HJR-3*Community Nutrition
Resource Center*

P.O. Box 4511

Butte, Montana 59702

(406) 782-2386

January 9, 1991

Honorable Jan Brown
House of Representatives
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59620
fax: (406) 444-4105

Dear Representative Brown:

As a health care professional working in maternal/child health I am submitting this written testimony to the Human Services Committee in support of resolution HJR-3, the resolution to promote breastfeeding in the Montana WIC program.

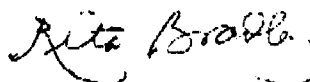
The health benefits of breastfeeding to infants are well documented in the medical literature. The potential savings from these health protective benefits, in turn, make breastfeeding cost effective (in medical costs avoided for sick infants). This is particularly important for a program for high risk women, infants and children.

I served as project director for a breastfeeding promotion demonstration program under the category of Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS) from 1985-1988. This program was a Department of Health and Human Services sponsored Maternal/Child Health Improvement Project. As part of this project we performed an exhaustive review of the medical literature on the relationship between infant health and morbidity based on feeding method. This review shows reduced infant illness in the breastfed population. Many illnesses routinely treated by pediatricians and other physicians serving the infant population occur less frequently and/or are less severe among the breastfed populations. Less frequent hospitalizations are also reported. We reported these findings in a document titled, "Analysis of the Potential Cost Savings of Breastfeeding - Medical Literature Review and Assessment." This report has been used nationally in support of breastfeeding, and its potential for cost savings.

As a Montana health care professional I urge that HJR-3, in support of breastfeeding in the Montana WIC program, be passed. All public/private health programs should benefit indirectly from this timely resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rita J. Bradley, R.D

VISITORS' REGISTER

Human Services & Aging COMMITTEEBILL NO. HJR 3DATE January 9, 1991SPONSOR Rep. Dan Brown

NAME (please print)	RESIDENCE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
PATRICIA A. HENNESSEY	701 E. 6th Ave. Nelsna	X	
Garen L. Semple	STAR RT 175 Clancy	X	
Douglas W. Semple	STAR RT 175 Clancy	X	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.