

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & AGING

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DUANE GRIMES**, on March 31, 1995, at
3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Duane Grimes, Chairman (R)
Rep. John C. Bohlinger, Vice Chairman (Majority) (R)
Rep. Carolyn M. Squires, Vice Chairman (Minority) (D)
Rep. Chris Ahner (R)
Rep. Ellen Bergman (R)
Rep. Bill Carey (D)
Rep. Dick Green (R)
Rep. Antoinette R. Hagener (D)
Rep. Deb Kottel (D)
Rep. Bonnie Martinez (R)
Rep. Brad Molnar (R)
Rep. Bruce T. Simon (R)
Rep. Liz Smith (R)
Rep. Susan L. Smith (R)
Rep. Loren L. Soft (R)
Rep. Kenneth Wennemar (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: David Niss, Legislative Council
Jacki Sherman, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: SB 385
Executive Action: SB 385 BE CONCURRED IN
SB 226 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED
SB 17 BE CONCURRED IN

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Counter: 000; Comments: n/a.}

HEARING ON SB 385Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. DOROTHY ECK, SD 15, BOZEMAN, brought about SB 385 to provide health care for children and extend and expand Medicaid benefits. As of March 1 of this year, 423 children were enrolled in the Medicaid program but in actuality 616 children were served. This bill would be limited to children who are not eligible for Medicaid and who meet the poverty level requirements. SB 385 would be a good way to increase the number of children that could be taken care of.

Proponents' Testimony:

Tanya Ask, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana (BC/BS), discussed the Caring Program for Children that was developed for children who no longer receive primary and preventative health care. The program is not a comprehensive insurance benefit, it is a benefit for health care services. The program has been a private initiative funded by individual contributions. **EXHIBIT 1**

Steve Yeakel, Montana Council for Maternal and Child Health, stated that SB 385 encompasses two critical areas regarding health care and children: cost and compassion. SB 385 would reduce the amount of uncompensated care provided by hospitals and medical providers.

Bob Torres, Montana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, supported SB 385 stating that it would reduce the stress on individuals and consumers.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Counter: 467; Comments: NA.}

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

REP. LOREN SOFT asked **Ms. Ask** what database was used to obtain her statistics. She replied they were secured from the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). She expanded on the Caring Foundation's makeup and work.

REP. SOFT asked **SEN. ECK** if the department makes the grant, where would the funds be coming from. She replied that there has been \$300,000 appropriated to SRS to deal with children's programs.

REP. ELLEN BERGMAN asked if the sponsors of the bill wanted Medicaid to give more money and if not, where would the money come from. **SEN. ECK** responded that the money was coming from the general fund and that people usually apply for assistance through recommendation or by word of mouth.

REP. JOHN BOHLINGER asked about funds and grants. **Ms. Ask** replied that BC/BS had a commitment during the first year to match up dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000, and the matching funds were renewed for another year. She stated that there were people ready and waiting to sign up more donors from across the state.

REP. BILL CAREY asked how many children in Montana didn't have health coverage. **Ms. Ask** estimated about 14,000 children did not have insurance.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Counter: 00; Comments: NA.}

CHAIRMAN GRIMES asked if the children were on the program indefinitely and **Ms. Ask** answered that there was a recertification process annually and explained the eligibility requirements.

REP. BOHLINGER asked for clarification as to where the Caring Program came up with their funding numbers compared to those served. **Ms. Ask** explained that in the statistics a child may have been counted only once, but has received two years of benefits.

REP. BERGMAN clarified what the intent of the bill was and **Ms. Ask** replied that up until now the program was funded privately, but would need government assistance to provide services to all who needed them.

REP. BONNIE MARTINEZ asked about the eligibility requirements. **Ms. Ask** expounded on the age and income requirements passed by previous federal legislation.

REP. CHRIS AHNER asked what benefits would be available. **Ms. Ask** said that \$276 would cover one child for one year, and that the monetary amount that is matched by BC/BS totals \$276.

REP. DEB KOTTEL asked if the program required a health screening and **Ms. Ask** replied that there was no exclusion.

REP. SOFT asked who had the oversight of the grants. **SEN. ECK** responded that the family fills out the forms and that no one has been turned down in the past year. She said that SRS would have the authority, but there were no particular guidelines except an amendment in HB 2.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. ECK felt that SB 385 would be a very good insurance policy for children and there are a lot of children in Montana who need it.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Counter: 510; Comments: NA.}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 385

Motion: REP. JOHN BOHLINGER MOVED THAT SB 385 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion:

REP. SOFT reiterated that the bill would allow a public entity to make grants from public funds to a private foundation.

REP. AHNER asked if the bill would give relief to counties.

REP. TONI HAGENER stated that it probably would not, as the services offered by both did not duplicate.

SEN. ECK stated that county health services do charge for their work but they might be covered by the program.

REP. BOHLINGER summarized the benefits of funding the program.

REP. DICK GREEN opposed the bill, stating that there wasn't enough money in the general fund to meet the needs for all the children that would be covered under the program. He disagreed with the requirements that enabled someone to be covered under the program.

REP. CAREY agreed with the program and stated that charity alone was unable to meet the needs of the children.

REP. BERGMAN thought that the program was great as long as they stayed with private funds instead of always turning to government for assistance.

CHAIRMAN GRIMES asked if REP. SOFT had seen examples of public funds used for nonprofit private entities. He replied that he had not.

REP. BERGMAN clarified that the money would come out of the general fund money appropriated to SRS if there were funds left.

REP. CAREY stated that public funds routinely subsidize private covenants.

SEN. ECK stated that the public subsidizes funds through tax expenditures or medical savings accounts.

REP. MOLNAR asked if they took the money and applied it toward the same children under their own Medicaid program, wouldn't that give two-thirds reimbursement. REP. CAROLYN SQUIRES replied that it was already designated money under SRS, and those children did not for qualify for Medicaid.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Counter: 00; Comments: NA.}

CHAIRMAN GRIMES supported the bill and would research some issues before the floor action.

REP. SQUIRES stated that many of these issues regarding health care services and Medicaid have been addressed in the 54th Legislature, but that the area of the children in the specified levels of poverty had been left out until they were covered under SB 385.

Vote: The motion carried 15-1 with **REP. GREEN** voting no and **REPS. SIMON, L. SMITH** and **S. SMITH** voting yes by proxy.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Counter: 150; Comments: NA}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 226

Motion/Vote: **CHAIRMAN GRIMES** MOVED TO RECONSIDER ACTION ON SB 226. The motion carried 11-5 with **REPS. BERGMAN, GREEN, MARTINEZ, MOLNAR** and **SIMON** voting no and **REPS. SIMON, L. SMITH** and **S. SMITH** voting by proxy.

Motion: **REP. KEN WENNEMAR** MOVED THAT SB 226 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.

Discussion:

REP. DEB KOTTEL explained that there were technical amendments that would tighten up the language of what it means to be engaged in the therapeutic process, and would include Native Americans who received their certification in chemical dependency counseling.

CHAIRMAN GRIMES stated that he previously had concerns that they were setting up a whole other area of licensing that was not needed, but has changed his mind and supports the bill.

REP. DICK GREEN approved of the bill now that the amendments had been added.

REP. BRAD MOLNAR said that he felt like they were giving licenses to everybody and that the end result is what was important, not just a piece of paper.

REP. LOREN SOFT followed up by saying that there were different levels of counseling, from a daily counseling to a second level where the staff needed to be licensed.

REP. MOLNAR stated that he felt that all the issues covered in the bill were already in place.

REP. KOTTEL said that people can't say they are something that they're not and be misleading. SB 226 would prevent that to a

point and let people know their doctor's scope of practice and qualifications.

Vote: The motion carried 13-3 with REPS. BERGMAN, MOLNAR and SIMON voting no and REPS. SIMON and S. SMITH voting by proxy.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Counter: 585; Comments: NA.}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 17

Motion/Vote: REP. DICK GREEN MOVED TO RECONSIDER ACTION ON SB 17. The motion carried 9-7 with REPS. BOHLINGER, SQUIRES, CAREY, HAGENER, KOTTEL, SIMON, and WENNEMAR voting no and REPS. SIMON, L. SMITH and S. SMITH voting by proxy.

Motion: REP. BRAD MOLNAR MOVED THAT SB 17 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion:

REP. JOHN BOHLINGER stated that the system that is in place now is working and should not be changed.

Vote: SB 17 carried 9-7 with REPS. BOHLINGER, SQUIRES, CAREY, HAGENER, KOTTEL, SIMON, and WENNEMAR voting no and REPS. SIMON, L. SMITH AND S. SMITH voting by proxy.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:00 p.m.



DUANE GRIMES, Chairman



ANDREA SMALL, Recording Secretary

DG/as

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Human Services and Aging

ROLL CALL

DATE March 31, 1995

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Rep. Duane Grimes, Chairman	✓		
Rep. John Bohlinger, Vice Chairman, Majority	✓		
Rep. Carolyn Squires, Vice Chair, Minority	✓		
Rep. Chris Ahner	✓		
Rep. Ellen Bergman	✓		
Rep. Bill Carey	✓		
Rep. Dick Green	✓		
Rep. Toni Hagener	✓		
Rep. Deb Kottel	✓		
Rep. Bonnie Martinez	✓		
Rep. Brad Molnar	✓		
Rep. Bruce Simon		pt	✓
Rep. Liz Smith			✓
Rep. Susan Smith			✓
Rep. Loren Soft	✓		
Rep. Ken Wennemar	✓		



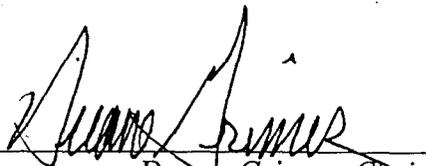
HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 31, 1995

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on **Human Services and Aging** report that **Senate Bill 385** (third reading copy -- blue) be concurred in.

Signed:


Duane Grimes, Chair

Carried by: Rep. Barnhart

Committee Vote:
Yes 15, No 1.

741705SC.Hdh



HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 31, 1995

Page 1 of 2

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Human Services and Aging report that Senate Bill 226 (third reading copy -- blue) be concurred in as amended.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duane Grimes".

Duane Grimes, Chair

And, that such amendments read:

Carried by: Rep. Kottel

1. Title, lines 7 and 8.

Strike: "AN INDIVIDUAL WORKING TO COMPLETE CERTAIN COUNSELING REQUIREMENTS"

Insert: "CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE"

2. Page 1, line 24.

Strike: "and"

Insert: "or"

3. Page 2, line 28.

Following: "educator,"

Insert: "chemical dependency counselor accredited by a federal agency,"

4. Page 2, line 29.

Following: "53-24-215"

Insert: ", "

5. Page 3, line 3.

Following: "profession"

Insert: "or, in the case of a qualified member of another profession who is not licensed or certified or for whom there is no applicable code of ethics, from performing duties and services consistent with the person's training,"

Committee Vote:

Yes 13, No 3.

741701SC.Hdh

6. Page 3, line 27.
Following: "WORKER"
Insert: ", licensed psychiatrist,"

7. Page 3, line 28.
Following: "PSYCHOLOGIST"
Insert: "when performing the activity or service in a manner
consistent with the person's license and the code of ethics
of the person's profession"

8. Page 4, line 2.
Strike: "(G),"
Insert: " ;"

9. Page 4, line 3.
Strike: "or"
Insert: " (b) "

Renumber: subsequent subsections

-END-



HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 31, 1995

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Human Services and Aging report that Senate Bill 17 (third reading copy -- blue) be concurred in.

Signed: _____

Duane Grimes
Duane Grimes, Chair

Carried by: Rep. Green

Committee Vote:
Yes 9, No 7.

741704SC.Hdh

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROLL CALL VOTE

Human Services and Aging Committee

DATE March 31, 1995 BILL NO. SB NUMBER 17

MOTION: Rep. Molnar moved do concern

Rep. Green

NAME	AYE	NO
Rep. Duane Grimes, Chairman	✓	
Rep. John Bohlinger, Vice Chairman, Majority		✓
Rep. Carolyn Squires, Vice Chairman, Minority		✓
Rep. Chris Ahner	✓	
Rep. Ellen Bergman	✓	
Rep. Bill Carey		✓
Rep. Dick Green	✓	
Rep. Toni Hagener		✓
Rep. Deb Kottel		✓
Rep. Bonnie Martinez	✓	
Rep. Brad Molnar	✓	
Rep. Bruce Simon <i>By Proxy</i>		✓
Rep. Liz Smith <i>By Proxy</i>	✓	
Rep. Susan Smith <i>By Proxy</i>	✓	
Rep. Loren Soft	✓	
Rep. Ken Wennemar		✓

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROLL CALL VOTE

Human Services and Aging Committee

DATE March 3, 1995 BILL NO. SB NUMBER 17

MOTION: Rep. Green moved to reconsider
action

NAME	AYE	NO
Rep. Duane Grimes, Chairman	✓	
Rep. John Bohlinger, Vice Chairman, Majority	✓	✓
Rep. Carolyn Squires, Vice Chairman, Minority	✓	✓
Rep. Chris Ahner	✓	
Rep. Ellen Bergman	✓	
Rep. Bill Carey		✓
Rep. Dick Green	✓	
Rep. Toni Hagener		✓
Rep. Deb Kottel		✓
Rep. Bonnie Martinez	✓	
Rep. Brad Molnar	✓	
Rep. Bruce Simon By Proxy		✓
Rep. Liz Smith By Proxy	✓	
Rep. Susan Smith By Proxy	✓	
Rep. Loren Soft	✓	
Rep. Ken Wennemar		✓

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROLL CALL VOTE

Human Services and Aging Committee

DATE March 31, 1995 BILL NO. SB NUMBER 226

MOTION: Rep. Wenneman moved Do Concur as amended Kottel

SB002601.adm

NAME	AYE	NO
Rep. Duane Grimes, Chairman	✓	
Rep. John Bohlinger, Vice Chairman, Majority	✓	
Rep. Carolyn Squires, Vice Chairman, Minority	✓	
Rep. Chris Ahner	✓	
Rep. Ellen Bergman		✓
Rep. Bill Carey	✓	
Rep. Dick Green	✓	
Rep. Toni Hagener	✓	
Rep. Deb Kottel	✓	
Rep. Bonnie Martinez	✓	
Rep. Brad Molnar		✓
Rep. Bruce Simon	By Proxy	✓
Rep. Liz Smith	By Proxy	Excused
Rep. Susan Smith	By Proxy	
Rep. Loren Soft	✓	
Rep. Ken Wennemar	✓	

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROLL CALL VOTE

Human Services and Aging Committee

DATE March 31, 1995 BILL NO. SB NUMBER 226

MOTION: Rep. Grimes moved to reconsider action

NAME	AYE	NO
Rep. Duane Grimes, Chairman	✓	
Rep. John Bohlinger, Vice Chairman, Majority	✓	
Rep. Carolyn Squires, Vice Chairman, Minority	✓	
Rep. Chris Ahner	✓	
Rep. Ellen Bergman		✓
Rep. Bill Carey	✓	
Rep. Dick Green		✓
Rep. Toni Hagener	✓	
Rep. Deb Kottel	✓	
Rep. Bonnie Martinez		✓
Rep. Brad Molnar		✓
Rep. Bruce Simon	By Proxy	✓
Rep. Liz Smith	By Proxy	✓
Rep. Susan Smith	By Proxy	✓
Rep. Loren Soft	✓	
Rep. Ken Wennemar	✓	

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROLL CALL VOTE

Human Services and Aging Committee

DATE March 31, 1995 BILL NO. SB NUMBER 385

MOTION: Do Concur by Rep. Bohlinger

Barnhart

NAME	AYE	NO
Rep. Duane Grimes, Chairman	✓	
Rep. John Bohlinger, Vice Chairman, Majority	✓	
Rep. Carolyn Squires, Vice Chairman, Minority	✓	
Rep. Chris Ahner	✓	
Rep. Ellen Bergman	✓	
Rep. Bill Carey	✓	
Rep. Dick Green	✓	✓
Rep. Toni Hagener	✓	
Rep. Deb Kottel	✓	
Rep. Bonnie Martinez	✓	
Rep. Brad Molnar	✓	
Rep. Bruce Simon	By Proxy ✓	
Rep. Liz Smith	By Proxy ✓	
Rep. Susan Smith	By Proxy ✓	
Rep. Loren Soft	✓	
Rep. Ken Wennemar	✓	

Rep Bollinger has my proxy on all votes
on SB 385. I wish to vote NO on all

motions to take from the table.
Bryan J. [Signature]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ABSENTEE VOTE

Date March 31, 1995

Mr. Chairman/Mr. Speaker:

I, the undersigned member, hereby vote absentee on:

SB Bill No. 385

(Yes) for reconsideration of SB 17 to ~~to~~

Representative Big Smith voting

(aye or no)

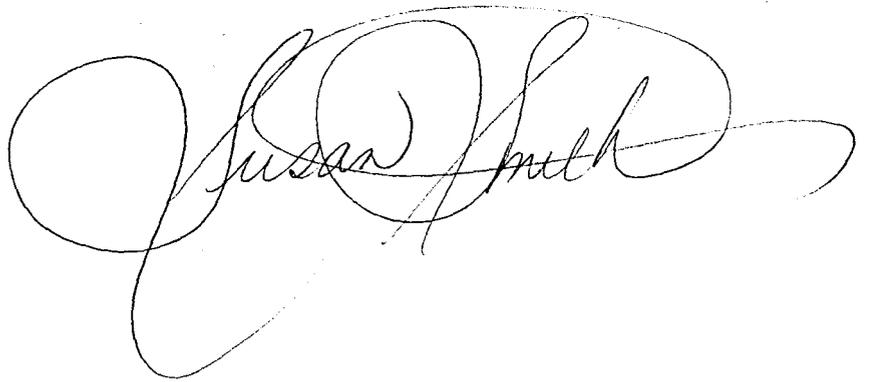
3-31-95

My proxy for all bills
and amendments to

Rep. Loren Soft for

Rep. Susan L. Smith

in Human Services Committee

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan Smith". The signature is highly stylized with large, overlapping loops and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.



The original of this document is stored at the Historical Society at 225 North Roberts Street, Helena, MT 59620-1201. The phone number is 444-2694.



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File

SB385

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 3/31/95
SB 385

Testimony before the Joint Committee on Health Care

9 March 1995

Jeffrey H. Strickler, M.D.

Sen. Benedict and Members of the Committee:

I come before you as a practicing pediatrician in Helena to speak for the needs of children.

The activities of this legislature on the issue of insurance reform are laudable, but do not speak to the health care needs of Montana's children. Of the many "uninsured" that drove the discussion of health care reform last session, the bulk (some say 70%) are children. Of the patients inappropriately using emergency rooms, many are children who cannot get into physicians offices. Preventive health services for children such as immunizations and well baby care can not be addressed by your current efforts because of Federal ERISA exemptions for self insured companies... and this represents about half of the insured children in this state. Every year that we have talked about this "problem" more and more companies have dropped dependents (the children) from their benefits, or have required the employee to pay ever more for protection for the family.

I have practiced pediatrics in Helena for the past 20 years. Let me give you an example of the reality of financing children's health at the Helena Pediatric Clinic. A review of the year's end books for 1994 showed that only 40% of our payments came from insurance, 20% from Medicaid, and a whopping 40% was cash - out of pocket expense for parents. With specialty care and adult medicine, Medicare and greater levels of insurance make cash payments much less - I have heard on the order of 5-10%. From our little clinic we are talking on the order of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Spread out over the state, the out of pocket cost for health care for our children is staggering. And it is the out of pocket expense that keeps parents from seeking care when they should.

Let me close by saying that I did not come here asking only for State help. I am also on the Board of The Caring Program, a volunteer effort that seeks donations to provide health insurance for children of the "working poor". So far with the help of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana we are providing insurance for nearly 500 kids and hope to expand this further. This is only a start, and not a solution, but I would urge you to look at enabling public/private partnerships with efforts like The Caring Program so that more of our children can be assured access to quality health care.

I will not presume to solve this problem for you now. I personally think that all children should be guaranteed coverage. But as you go about your deliberations about insurance reform, remember that the children are being left out, and the children deserve our greatest efforts.

