

Approved: 3/19/93  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 1:30 p.m. on March 18, 1993 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department  
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes  
LaVonne Mumert, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Merle Hill, Kansas Association of Community Colleges  
Gerald Henderson, United School Administrators of Kansas  
John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Connie Hubbell, State Board of Education

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Walker made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 1993 meeting. Senator Corbin seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

SCR 1612 - Urging the State Board of Education to require a course in computer operations and applications for renewal of teacher and school administrator certification

Staff explained that SCR 1612 urges that the State Board of Education adopt a regulation that requires teachers and administrators, when they renew their certificate, if they have not already done so, to complete a two-hour course in computer operations and applications or the equivalent thereof, in accordance with Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) standards and outcomes.

Merle Hill, Kansas Association of Community Colleges, testified in support of SCR 1612 (Attachment 1). He described the demand for computer technology courses at community colleges. He suggested that the resolution be amended to require demonstration of appropriate computer skills for the level at which the individual is teaching/administering.

Gerald Henderson, United School Administrators of Kansas, testified in opposition to SCR 1612 (Attachment 2). He said his organization is not opposed to the "what" of the resolution but rather the "how". He suggested that the requirement in the bill be to "demonstrate proficiency with computers" rather than completion of a two-hour course.

The Committee was provided with a written statement in support of the resolution from Shawnee Mission USD 512 (Attachment 3).

Chairman Kerr asked staff to draft amendatory language providing that individuals be required to demonstrate applicable proficiency and allow some flexibility in terms of levels of application in the classroom.

HCR 5016 - Constitutional amendment, state board of education

Staff explained that HCR 5016 proposes to amend the Education Article of the Kansas Constitution for the purpose of limiting the self-executing powers of the State Board of Education. The Legislature would be responsible for prescribing the powers and duties of the state board.

John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards, testified in support of HCR 5016 (Attachment 4). He advised that he was also testifying on behalf of the Kansas National Educational Association. Mr. Koepke

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 123-S Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on March 18, 1993.

said that the single most important element of school reform would address the issue of the self-executing powers of the State Board of Education. He discussed the 1973 *Peabody* case where the Kansas Supreme Court found that the board has self-executing powers which he said are possessed by no other executive branch agency. Mr. Koepke discussed elections where a constitutional amendment to amend the Education Article has appeared on the ballot. With regard to the resolution as originally drafted, Mr. Koepke said that the position of his organization is that the board should remain an elective body.

Connie Hubbell, State Board of Education, testified in opposition to HCR 5016 (Attachment 5). She discussed efforts and programs to improve education which have been initiated by the board. Ms. Hubbell noted that the board takes great effort to obtain public input and that the sole responsibility of the board is education. She expressed concern about the wording of the explanatory statement. Ms. Hubbell observed that the Legislature has final authority over the board through funding decisions. With regard to the resolution as originally drafted, Ms. Hubbell said that the board believes that the members should be elected, they oppose the proposed new make-up of the board and they have concerns about a congressional district-wide campaign.

The Committee received written testimony in support of HCR 5016 from Concerned Women of America (Attachment 6).

HB 2067 - Kansas state high school activities association, reorganization

Senator Walker made a motion that HB 2067 be recommended favorably for passage. Senator Downey seconded the motion.

Senator Frahm made a substitute motion that the Committee recommend that HB 2067 be referred to interim study. Senator Langworthy seconded the substitute motion, and the substitute motion carried.

The Committee was provided with a letter from Larry Mears, Atchison School Board, to Senator Downey, regarding Senate Bill 75 (Attachment 7).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Friday, March 19, 1993.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 PLACE: 123-S DATE: 3/18/93

GUEST LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Mark Tallman	Topeka	KASB
Nemise Aepf	Topeka	KAC.C / USA
John W. Knepper	Topeka	KASB
Phyllis Hise	Topeka	KACC
Connie Huesel	Topeka	ST Bd of Ed
Bob Muesel	M. W. Aepf	ST Bd of Ed
Carolyn L. States	Logan	private & more citizen
Cindy Kelly	Topeka	KASB
Jim Allen	"	KFLC
Craig Grant	Topeka	KWEA
Bruce Goeden	Topeka	Kansas NEA
Dan Hermes	"	DOB
Bob Elliott	Wichita	Federation of Teachers
Ken Bengert	Topeka	KSBE
Robin Nichols	Wichita	Wichita Public Schools



# KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Jayhawk Tower, Suite 901 • 700 S.W. Jackson • Topeka, KS 66603

W. Merle Hill  
Executive Director

Phone 913/357-5156  
Fax 913/357-5157

To: Senate Committee on Education

From: Merle Hill, Executive Director  
Kansas Association of Community Colleges

Date: March 18, 1993

Subj: Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1612: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the State Board of Education to adopt a regulation requiring certain teachers and school administrators, upon application for renewal of certification, to complete a course designed to ensure mastery of basic computer operations and applications.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am Merle Hill, executive director of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to address the content of SCR 1612.

About two weeks ago, on Technology Day, I spent several hours wandering back and forth between exhibits on the first floor of the Capitol watching youngsters from the ages of less than 10 to, perhaps, 17 or 18, doing things with computers that most in this room cannot do. The adults standing around the exhibits were, in most cases, amazed at what they were seeing. As I observed the faces of the adults watching the technology of the 21st Century displayed before them, I wondered how many of them were able to program their VCRs at home to record a favorite program. In education, Toffler's "third wave" has hit us, and many educational practitioners are still fighting for their lives with the first wave.

At the Kanas community colleges, one course usually fills up quickly - Introduction to Computers, sometimes called Computer Technology. At the colleges located in metropolitan areas, the course is frequently filled no matter how many sections are offered. Most of these students are those who either had no computer training while in high school or whose teachers were not computer literate. Those high school graduates who have had a sound background in computer training, thanks to computer-literate teachers and excellent equipment, ordinarily are able to by-pass

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introductory courses, now thought of as remedial, and enroll in advanced college-level computer courses and experience immediate success.

Such "typical" freshman courses as English Composition are no longer "typical" at all colleges. English Composition is taught in a "collaborative writing classroom" at some colleges, and the students do all of their "writing" on the computer.

I should like to suggest a change in the resolution. In light of your earlier hearings on and discussions about Quality Performance Accreditation and outcomes learning, it does not appear to be appropriate to suggest that one can achieve "mastery" of such an important learning and teaching tool by enrolling in one two-hour course. May I suggest an alternative:

Recommend to the State Board of Education that a teacher or administrator, upon application for the renewal of his/her certificate, be required to demonstrate "appropriate computer skills" for the level at which he/she is teaching or administering. If the individual cannot do so, require the local school administration or school board to identify the needed competencies and develop a strategy for an IDP to enable that individual to acquire the necessary skills.

I shall attempt to answer question. Thank you.





## SCR 1612

Testimony presented before the Senate Committee on Education  
by Gerald W. Henderson, Executive Director  
United School administrators of Kansas  
March 18, 1993

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

United School Administrators of Kansas (USA) vigorously opposes the provisions of **SCR 1612**. We have no problem with the "WHEREAS's" of the resolution as a reasonable profile of where we are concerning the computer literacy of Kansas teachers and administrators. The resolution does not do as good a job of clearly identifying what we want in this regard.

Our main opposition however, is not with the "what" of **SCR 1612**, but with the "how" this perceived problem is to be remedied. May I suggest that "completing" something, be it a two hour course or any equivalent thereof, will not necessarily get what we want.

May I further suggest that what the drafters of this resolution might want is for school teachers and administrators to demonstrate proficiency with the computer. Proficiency might well be defined as being able to:

1. boot software designed for computer assisted instruction.
2. demonstrate use of a spread sheet designed either to record assessment results or school finances.
3. demonstrate use of a computer data base designed for classroom management, school schedules, or facilities maintenance.

These are just three of the computer applications now being used by school teachers and administrators in the performance of their duties. I have a teacher friend who has never completed one hour of course-work on computer operations and applications, yet his lesson plans, grade book, report forms, and teacher written assessments are all on his home computer. Likewise I know of few high school principals who do not use the computer to assist in the building of the master schedule.

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If you want all Kansas teachers and administrators to demonstrate these skills, then let's please identify what we want all educators to know and be able to do, and then let's please ask the state board to develop a method whereby what we want can be demonstrated. Completing another course may or may not get what we want.

LEG/SCR1612

STATEMENT SUPPORTING SCR 1612  
SHAWNEE MISSION USD # 512

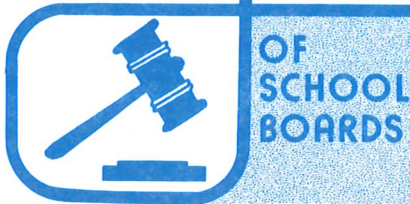
We wish to express our support for the concept of SCR 1612. The necessity for educators to be "computer literate" in today's world is clear to us. In fact, we have instituted a 30 hour in-service program for our staff. This includes a basic understanding of computer operations as well as some specifics on the particular software which we use in our district.

We would, however, want to be assured that the program we are currently offering would meet the requirements of any state mandated program. We would hope, therefore, that the language on page 2, line 1, "or the equivalent thereof" would be interpreted in a manner sufficiently broad that our current program, or any minor modifications which we might make in the future, would be acceptable.

With that reservation noted, we wholeheartedly support the concept of SCR 1612.

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Attachment 3  
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Testimony on HCR 5016  
before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
by  
John W. Koepke, Executive Director  
Kansas Association of School Boards  
March 17, 1993

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the member boards of education of the Kansas Association of School Boards. The issue of education governance is one of vital concern to our members and one to which we have devoted extensive study and discussion.

As a result of that study and discussion, our Delegate Assembly has long expressed the view that the single most important impediment of sound governance is the existence of the "self-executing" powers of the State Board of Education. We believe the existence of this power creates an unnecessary impediment to working relationships between the State Board and the legislature. We also believe resolution of this issue is of far more importance than how the State Board of Education is chosen.

It is for this reason that we express our wholehearted support for the passage of HCR 5016 in its present form. This issue is difficult enough to explain without muddling this proposed change to the education article of our Constitution with other peripheral issues. We would urge your support for HCR 5016 and I would be happy to attempt to answer any questions.

# ***Kansas State Board of Education***

120 S.E. 10th Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1182

March 17, 1993

TO: Senate Education Committee

FROM: State Board of Education

SUBJECT: 1993 House Concurrent Resolution 5016

My name is Connie Hubbell, Legislative Coordinator of the State Board of Education. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Committee on behalf of the State Board.

The State Board of Education has made a concerted effort during the past few years to increase school standards, to restructure Kansas school systems to meet the needs of students, our communities, higher education, and business and industry.

Many new programs have been developed, in cooperation with the Governor and Legislature, to restructure Kansas schools, including but not limited to, the following.

1. Development of a precertification testing program for Kansas teachers.
2. Implementation of an alternative certification program.
3. Establishment of school district inservice education programs.
4. Development of a new accreditation system that is premised upon outcomes based education.
5. Implementation of a parents as teachers program.
7. Implementation of an educational enhancement grant program.
8. Implementation of statewide assessment programs.
9. Implementation of competency based programs in vocational education.
10. Implementation of a tech-prep program.
11. Integration of academic and vocational education programs.
12. Implementation of the Kansas Governor's Academy.

We believe the goals and objectives of quality performance accreditation are far reaching and is one of the best accreditation programs in the nation. We also recognize there may be changes which need to be made and we are willing to review and make necessary changes.

(over)

Dale M. Dennis  
Deputy/Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Fiscal Services and Quality Control  
(913) 296-3871

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In light of these programs and accomplishments, it is our opinion that the general supervisory powers of the State Board of Education have been used wisely to respond to the educational needs of our state.

The State Board has made every effort to obtain public input through public hearings on any major issue being considered for implementation. We have also provided opportunities to any legislator who desires to submit written or oral comments regarding various proposals.

We believe amending the Constitution to reduce the State Board's self-executing authority is unnecessary and not in the best interest of education for our state.

The removal of the State Board's constitutional authority has been presented to the voters on several occasions and defeated each time. We believe this is a strong indication by the people to continue under the current constitutional provisions.

We also encourage you to review the explanatory statement to insure it adequately describes this proposed constitutional amendment.

The State Board believes that education should be a cooperative effort involving the Governor, Legislature, State Board of Education, parents, students, patrons, higher education, and business and industry. Every effort has been made to follow this concept. Teaming is required if we are to be successful.

The State Board of Education opposes House Concurrent Resolution 5016 which would have the effect of changing the State Board's constitutional powers.





# Concerned Women for America

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P.O. Box 46 Leavenworth, KS 66048 (913)682-8393

Beverly LaHaye  
President

Kenda Bartlett  
Kansas  
Area Representative

March 17, 1993

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
DAVE Kerr, Chairman  
HCR 5016

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Concerned Women for America of Kansas rises in support of HCR 5016.

The government of this country has lasted longer than the government of any other nation in the world. At the Constitutional Convention in 1787 our Founding Fathers determined that the best form of government was one in which specific powers were relegated to separate and distinct branches and departments of government. Each of these branches would be responsible to the others through a system of checks and balances. This system of checks and balances would keep any one branch or department from becoming too powerful and would keep each branch accountable to the others.

Our autonomous, self-governing State Board of Education seems to be operating beyond this time-proven system of checks and balances. And because of past voter apathy, they have become virtually unaccountable to anyone. We have seen an example of this in the present legislative session as the legislature has been discussing QPA. The former chairman of the State Board now a State Senator stated that it did not matter what the Legislature did, the State Board would go right on with the implementation of QPA. I saw it also in August as I questioned the State Board on its authority to change law in regards to the School Finance Act and the ten outcomes of QPA which the State Board had changed. (The ten outcomes in HB 2892 are not the same as those in the current QPA document.) I was told that the State Board has the discretionary power to change law.

*"Protecting the rights of the family through prayer and action"*

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It is time to curb the power of the State Board of Education and put some checks and balances on them. The State Board makes policy which affects virtually every family in this state. They need to be accountable to the state legislature and to the voters of this state.

Thank you,

Kenda Bartlett  
Legislative Liaison

LARRY R. MEARS, CHARTERED  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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March 16, 1993

Senator Christine Downey  
Room 126S  
State Capitol  
Topeka, KS 66612

IN RE: Senate Bill 75

Dear Senator Downey:

Thank you and other members of the Senate Education Committee for allowing me to appear in support of Senate Bill 75.

As I was preparing to depart, you asked me to obtain for you certain additional information.

In Atchison, under U.S.D. #409, we have only one (1) teacher now in the school improvement type program or assistance.

In the last five (5) years we have not fired or terminated any teachers.

I hope the above information is helpful to you and if you desire any additional information, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

LARRY R. MEARS, CHARTERED

By   
LARRY R. MEARS

3-15/LRM/el

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Attachment 7  
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C. Downey