

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on March 3, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Ms. Emalene Correll, Legislative Research - excused

Committee staff present:

Ms. Terry Munchmore, Legislative Research

Mr. Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes

Mrs. Diana Lee, Revisor of Statutes

Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Michael Easley, President of International Health Management and Research Association and National Fluoridation Director for Oral Health America, from Ohio

Dr. Phil Zivnuska, Past President of the Kansas Dental Association (KDA) and Fluoridation Spokesperson for KDA

Dr. Dennis Cooley, Past President, American Academy of Pediatrics, Kansas Chapter

Ms. Sally Finney, Executive Director, Kansas Public Health Association

Ms. Teresa Schwab, Executive Director of Oral Health Kansas, Inc.

Mr. Ron Gashes, Lobbyist for Kansas Dental Hygienists Association

Others attending:

Please See Attached List.

Recognition

Upon calling the meeting to order, the Chair recognized and welcomed the Ottawa University's Social Policy Class and their teacher, Ms. Tonia Salvini to the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee meeting.

Handout

The Chair then directed the Committee to their first handout, written testimony from Ms. Sherry Smith, a Kansas citizen from Leon, who provided comments in opposition to the bill including: its history (introduced to the public in the 1950's) and stating there as never been an environmental impact study on what happens where there is a discharge of the sewage treated water in a fluoridated community, but there has been an instance of an accidental spill of 50 ppm of fluoride in the Anapolis, Maryland water supply on November 11, 1979 poisoning 10,000 people. Her testimony was received today. A copy of her written testimony is (Attachment 1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Continued Hearing on SB 530 - an act concerning public water supply; requiring fluoridation in certain public water supply systems

The Chair then announced that today would be a continuance of yesterday's hearing beginning with the first of seven proponents of **SB530**. She called upon Dr. Michael Easley, President of International Health Management and Research Association, and National Fluoridation Director for Oral Health American, from Ohio. Dr. Easley offered his educational credentials and offered a handout that contains information about the safety and efficacy of community water fluoridation and focused on a few points he felt might help the Committee address some of the allegations heard yesterday (included the definition of, history of, description of, its benefits, status, support, and opposition.) A copy of his testimony and handout are (Attachment 2) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE at 1:30 p.m. on March 3, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Page 2

The second proponent to testify was Dr. Phil Zivnuska, past president of the Kansas Dental Association (KDA) and currently serves as fluoridation spokesperson for the KDA, who stated that the Centers for Disease Control has indicated that as a result of fluoridation, dental decay rates had dropped 40-70 percent in the last 40 years and regard it as one of the ten greatest public health achievements of the 20th Century. He also stated that there are currently 1.5 million Kansans who are being served by fluoridated public water systems throughout the state and that all drinking water contains fluoride at some level, with the community water fluoridation programs adjusting the naturally occurring levels of fluoride to the optimum level for greatest health benefits. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 3) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The third proponent to testify was Dr. Dennis Cooley, past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Kansas Chapter, who stated that dental disease can cause serious complications that involve more than the teeth, it can result in infections that extend to the bone and blood stream, problems with nutrition due to chewing difficulties, and severe pain that involves the entire face. He also stated that recent studies have suggested associations between dental infections and diabetes and heart disease. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 4) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Dr. Paul Kittle, a dentist from Leavenworth and the fourth conferee, stated that fluoride works two ways:

- 1) it is incorporated into the enamel of developing teeth that have not yet erupted into the mouth, making them more resistant to decay, and
- 2) it is secreted in minute amounts in the saliva, bathing the teeth already present in the mouth and making them also more resistant to cavity formation by a process called remineralization.

A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 5) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The next proponent was Ms. Sally Finney, Executive Director, Kansas Public Health Association, who stated that tooth decay is an infectious disease that has been linked to such serious health conditions as heart and lung disease, premature delivery, and low birth weight infants and although there is no cure for this disease, there are interventions that reduce its severity, one being fluoridation. She also stated that in FY 2003, SRS Estimates that public spending to provide dental services in Sedgwick County exceeded \$4 million. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment 6) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The sixth proponent was Ms. Terese Schwab, Executive Director of Oral Health Kansas, Inc. who gave a brief history of her organization and offered information regarding a Louisiana study of water fluoridation and Medicaid costs, hospital reports due to primary dental needs, a Kansas Health Institute study regarding caries rates, and facts about fluoride offered by the American Association of Public Health Dentistry. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment 7) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The seventh proponent to testify was Mr. Ron Gashes, Lobbyist for the Kansas Dental Hygienists Association, who stated the dental Hygienists see every day results in inadequate oral health care including: loss of school time, loss of work time, unnecessary expense for avoidable medical care, and accelerating Medicaid and private insurance costs. He also offered for review, current Fact Sheets from the CDC including:

1. Using Fluoride to Prevent and Control Dental Caries in the United States
2. Cost Savings of Community Water Fluoridation
3. Community Water Fluoridation: Surgeon General's Statement, 2001

A copy of his testimony and the Fact Sheets are (Attachment 8) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE at 1:30 p.m. on March 3, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Page 3

And lastly, Ms. Linda Kenney, Director for Bureau for Children, Youth, and Families who stated that dental caries remains a common and often serious concern with possible long-term health and developmental consequences for many children and their families as found at the Kansas Dental Association's Mission of Mercy (KMOM) at the fairgrounds in Garden City and at the racetrack in Kansas City. She also stated that: many children remain without dental insurance; are eligible but unenrolled in or not served by Medicaid; or live in areas where there is a drastic shortage of dental care providers. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment 9) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

As there was no further proponent testimony, written proponent testimony was offered, including:

- 1) Ms. Kim Moore, President, United Methodist health Institute Fund
- 2) Ms. Cindy D'Encole, Senior Policy Analyst, Kansas Action for Children
- 3) Ms. Chris Collins, Director of Government Affairs, Kansas Medical Society

Copies of the written testimony are (Attachment 10) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chair then asked for questions or comments from the Committee. Senators Brownlee, Salmans, Barnett, and Wagle asked questions for Ms. Finney, Dr. Zivnuska, and Dr. Easley ranging from. are there any studies to compare Sedgwick to Johnson County regarding dental health, similar demographics, quality, and lower rates for insurance.

Adjournment

As there was no further discussion, the Chair announced that tomorrow the Committee would be hearing neutral testimony. The meeting was adjourned. The time was 2:33 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2004