

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barbara Allen at 10:40 A.M. on February 8, 2007 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

## Committee staff present:

Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Gordon Self, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Jason Thompson, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Judy Swanson, Committee Assistant

## Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Barbara Allen  
Roy Jensen, MD, KU Cancer Center  
Julie Dunlap, Kansas Medical Society Alliance  
Mary Jones, Kansas Medical Society Alliance  
Lanita Moss, Young Survivors Coalition  
Dan Morin, Kansas Medical Society  
Lisa Benlon, American Cancer Society  
John Hennessy, Kansas City Cancer Center  
Senator Derek Schmidt  
David Monical, Washburn University  
Mark Desetti, KNEA & KASB

## Others attending:

See attached list.

**SB 198—Providing for a breast cancer research and outreach license plate**

Senator Barbara Allen testified **SB 198** will allow Kansans to purchase a “Breast Cancer Research and Outreach” license plate. Sales of these distinctive plates will potentially raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit breast cancer research and outreach in Kansas (Attachment 1). Kansas University Cancer Center (KUCC) is the sponsoring agency for the plates. Efforts are already underway by the sponsors of the bill to raise the required \$10,000, which must be provided to the KDOR prior to authorization of any distinctive license plate. KUCC would use the \$50 royalty fee on each plate sold to support a statewide coordinator for the Midwest Cancer Alliance (MCA), the entity that serves as a liaison between the KUCC, hospitals, physicians and clinics across the state of Kansas. This statewide coordination includes the provision of assistance to KUCC’s statewide medical director in working to ensure that breast cancer patients in communities across Kansas are aware of what prevention and early detection protocols, treatment choices, and clinical studies are available to them. Senator Allen said women should not have to travel out of state to obtain the highest standard of care for treatment of breast cancer.

Roy Jensen, MD, Director, KU Cancer Center, testified the funds received from these license plates would help raise awareness of breast cancer among Kansas women, increase funding for research at Kansas University Cancer Center, and support breast cancer education, screening, and early detection outreach activities provided by the Midwest Cancer Alliance. (Attachment 2) Dr. Jensen thanked those who are supporting the efforts of the Cancer Center.

Julie Dunlap, Kansas Medical Society Alliance, testified a breast cancer awareness license plate would be effective in lowering the rates of both incomplete treatment and later-stage diagnosis for all Kansans. (Attachment 3) The goal is to reach all breast cancer patients in all corners of the state.

Mary Jones, Kansas Medical Society Alliance, said the bill is important to her because it is a way to show support for breast cancer awareness, and also to help those individuals who need resources to get them through the process of treatment. (Attachment 4) Ms. Jones is a four-year cancer survivor.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee at 10:40 A.M. on February 8, 2007 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

Lanita Moss, Young Survival Coalition, testified she is an eleven-year breast cancer survivor, and supports **SB 198**. (Attachment 5) Few people have the ability to write large checks to breast cancer organizations, but this license plate is a way to express and display support for such a worthy cause.

Dan Morin, Kansas Medical Society, expressed strong support for **SB 198**. (Attachment 6) He said the license plate will honor the memory of those who have lost their battle with breast cancer and serve as a symbol of hope, strength and support to those currently fighting the disease.

Lisa Benlon, American Cancer Society, testified the Society supported the bill, and the royalties from the purchase of the specialty plates will benefit breast cancer research and outreach. (Attachment 7)

Written testimony in favor of **SB 198** was received from John Hennessy, Kansas City Cancer Center. (Attachment 8) The hearing was closed.

### **SB 59–Kansas income tax credit for qualified tuition and related expenses paid to a Kansas educational institution**

Senator Derek Schmidt testified it is important for young people to gain additional education and skills beyond high school, and there is an ever widening gap between aid, out of pocket expenses and the total cost of tuition. (Attachment 9) If enacted, **SB 59** would provide a measure of relief to Kansas kids going to Kansas public institutions of learning, by allowing a student or his/her guardian to claim a tax credit against tuition or related expenses in the amount of up to \$250 in tax year 2007, and up to \$500 in tax year 2008 and thereafter. In response to a question from Senator Lee, Senator Schmidt said more state scholarships would be good. However, this legislation would help middle income Kansas families the most. This is a middle class solution.

David Monical, Washburn University, testified in support of the proposals embodied in **SB 59**. (Attachment 10) He said although Washburn will offer over \$50 million in student financial aid this year, everyone's financial circumstances differ. For some, these tax credits may offer an effective inducement to continue or complete a course of study. Hearing on **SB 59** closed.

### **SB 172–Providing an income tax credit for fees paid to public schools for textbooks and workbooks**

Senator Barbara Allen testified **SB 172** would provide an annual income tax credit for the full amount contributed, up to \$100 (or \$200 per married couple) toward fees to a public school, for textbooks and workbooks required by the public schools academic curriculum. (Attachment 11) She based this legislation on a similar tax credit program in Arizona. During discussion, Senator Donovan said he thought the bill would have a sizeable fiscal note. Dale Dennis, Kansas Department of Education, said he thought the bill would have a fiscal note of approximately \$21 million. Senator Allen said work is still being done to come up with an accurate fiscal note.

Mark Desetti, KNEA and KASB, testified he personally had to pay \$422 for fees to enroll his children in public school this year. (Attachment 12) He would have appreciated a tax credit, however, he feels schools should be funded appropriately so these fees will not have to be collected. In response to Senator Donovan, Mr. Desetti said he did not know how much more money should be put into the state's education budget to cover all these additional expenses. Hearing closed.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting will be February 13.