

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Arlen Siegfroid at 1:30 P.M. on March 15, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Chairman Representative John Edmonds - Excused  
Representative Judy Morrison - Excused

Committee staff present:

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Carol Doel, Committee Secretary

Conferees:

Representative Dick Kelsey  
Kathy Ostrowski, Kansans for Life  
Rev. Thom Belote - Abstinence Plus  
Chimene Schwach - Abstinence Plus  
Pam Ippel - Abstinence Plus  
Branden Bell - Abstinence Plus

Others attending:

See attached list

Vice-Chairman Siegfroid opened the meeting for bill introductions. There were none.

Attention was directed to written testimony from Representative Deena Horst regarding **HB 2931** which was heard in committee on March 14, 2006. ([Attachment 1](#))

Vice-Chair Siegfroid opened the floor for public hearing on **HB 2792** - relating to abortions; concerning minors.

Representative Kelsey came before the committee urge the passage of **HB 2792**.

Kathy Ostrowski, Legislative Director for Kansans for Life, state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee presented testimony supporting **HB 2792**. The bill would require that an appropriate ID be shown by the pregnant teen and her companion to the abortion clinic staff. It would also require the companion to declare his or her relationship to the pregnant teen, and any known connection to the presumed father of the unborn. Ms. Ostrowski also related that the bill will yield statistics, guarded for privacy, on the number of bypasses granted, as well as other actions taken by the court if it has reason to believe the pregnant teen seeking a waiver is experiencing abuse. It will assist parents whose rights have been intentionally violated by abortionists and their staff. Ms. Ostrowski stated that they would support language that specifically holds the clinic responsible for the costs of any abortion-caused medical treatment for a minor if the clinic violated the parental involvement provisions of Kansas abortion law. ([Attachment 2](#)) Also included in her testimony was an article entitled "*Statutory Rape: The Dirty Secret Behind Teen Sex Numbers*" by Gracie Hu, Family Research Council. ([Attachment 3](#)), an article "*Protecting Children From Harm*" by Phill Kline, Kansas Attorney General ([Attachment 4](#)), case stories of teen abuse ([Attachment 5](#)), a chart showing teen-age abortion statistics ([Attachment 6](#)), and an article entitled "*Is This What Legislators Intended For Judicial Bypass*" ([Attachment 7](#)).

There were no other proponents to speak to the bill and Vice-Chairman Siegfroid opened the floor to the opponents.

Reverend Thom Belote spoke in opposition to **HB 2792**. Reverend Belote stated that he believes that the best way to decrease the number of abortions in this state is to decrease the number of unintended pregnancies; and the best way to decrease the number of unintended pregnancies is to arm our sons and daughters with the knowledge they need to protect themselves. Reverend Belote is requesting a hearing on the Abstinence Plus

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Federal and State Affairs Committee at 1:30 P.M. on March 15, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

Education Act which he feels is an honest attempt to safeguard the health and well being of our children, and not a politically motivated piece of legislature. (Attachment 8)

Chimene Schwach is a licensed substance abuse counselor specializing in adolescent care and she opposes **HB 2792**. Ms. Schwach gave the opinion that the problem with the bill is that it puts those vulnerable teenagers - those who need the most protection- in harm's way, or forces them to go through at least one, and maybe two court proceedings. (Attachment 9)

Pam Ippel is a parent who addressed the committee strongly opposing **HB 2792**. In Ms. Ippel's opinion the real answer to teen pregnancy is preventions and strong, caring families, not new laws that endanger our, or other families' daughters. She asked that the committee please vote no on **HB 2792**. (Attachment 10)

Branden Bell also presented testimony opposing **HB 2792**. Mr. Bell stated that he believes that the amendments contained in this bill will create a legal morass which will suck money from the coffers of the State and embroil it in needless litigation for the foreseeable future. He has problems with Lines 21-25, Page 1 of **HB 2792** relating them as deficient. He also has problems with Page 1 Lines 40-43 which he describes as a legal landmine. Mr. Bell related that another troubling aspect is contained in Lines 37-39, Page 4. In conclusion Mr. Bell stated that the purpose of our system of laws is to attempt to offer clear guidance and predictable outcomes in order to allow others to appropriately plan future conduct and that this law does neither. He described this law as the equivalent of the giant shark in the movie *JAWS*. (Attachment 11)

Written testimony opposing **HB 2792** was submitted by Irene Bettinger, MD, Diplomat, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. (Attachment 12)

Adoption of minutes from the meetings of February 21<sup>st</sup>, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup> was requested.

Representative Dillmore made a motion to adopt the minutes from February 21<sup>st</sup>, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup> as read. Representative Mah seconded the motion. Minutes were adopted.