

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Barnett at 1:40 P.M. on January 11, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Pete Brungardt  
Vicki Schmidt

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jim Wilson, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Nabuko Folmsbee, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Morgan Dreyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Lawrence Buening - Executive Director, Kansas State Board of Healing Arts  
Mary Blubaugh - Executive Administrator, Board of Nursing  
Sheldon Weisgrau - Senior Policy Analyst, Kansas Health Institute  
Barbara Langer - Associate Professor, KU Med.

Others attending:

See attached list.

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairman Barnett asked that the Committee review the Minutes for January 10, 2007 for approval at the end of the meeting.

Chairman Barnett then asked for the introduction of bills. Lawrence Buening, Executive Director, Kansas Board of Healing Arts introduced a proposal concerning the state board of healing arts; fingerprinting and criminal history record checks. A handout of the bill draft was passed out to the Committee. A copy of his bill draft is (Attachment 1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Senator Palmer motioned to adopt the introduced bill. Senator Journey seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Chair then called upon Mary Blubaugh, Executive Administration, Board of Nursing, who introduced four bills to the Committee. The four bills introduced present proposals concerning the following topics.

1. Fingerprints - no statute number
2. Composition of the Board of Nursing: 741106
3. Elimination of graduate status: 651124
4. Four statutes: RN/LPN :651116, 651132, 651155, 651205

The drafts of these bills were not available at the time of the meeting.

Senator Jordan motioned to adopt the introduced bill. Senator Palmer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

### **Presentation on Who are the Uninsured in Kansas**

Chairman Barnett then called upon Sheldon Weisgrau, Senior Policy Analyst, Kansas Health Institute who presented information and statistics on the uninsured in Kansas. Highlights of his presentation included:

1. Why is Health Insurance Important?
2. Kansans with Health Insurance Have Better Access to Services and are Healthier than Uninsured Kansans
3. Sources of Health Insurance for Kansans, 2004-2005
4. The Cost of Health Insurance is Rising Rapidly
5. The percentage of Employers that Offer Health Insurance has Declined

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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6. The Uninsurance Rate in Kansas is Lower than the U.S. Rate
7. Problems Persist Despite the Low Uninsurance Rate in Kansas
8. Working Age Kansas Adults are Uninsured at a Higher Rate than Children
9. The Number and Percentage of Uninsured Kansas Children Increased in 2004-2005 After Several Years of Decline
10. Young Adult Kansans are Uninsured at a Higher Rate than Older Adults
11. Young Adults Comprise One-Third of Uninsured Working Age Kansans, 2004-2005
12. Racial/Ethnic Minority Kansans are More Likely to be Uninsured than Non-Hispanic Whites
13. Racial/Ethnic Minority Kansans are Uninsured at Rates Disproportionate to Their Presence in the Population, 2004-2005
14. The Uninsurance Rate is Higher at Lower Levels of Household Income
15. The Uninsurance Rate is Higher at Higher Poverty Levels
16. Percent of County Population Without Health Insurance Coverage, 2000

A copy of his presentation is ([Attachment 2](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chair asked for questions or comments from the Committee. Questions came from Senators Palmer, Barnett, Haley and Wagle regarding, definitions, criteria, why is such a large number of children uninsured, why young people choose to not be uninsured, rates of the Hispanic population uninsured, Healthwave, insurance coverage at the Emergency Room.

### **Presentation on Uninsured Kansans: A Demographic Profile**

The Chairman then called upon Barbara Langer, Associate Professor, KU Med. Who presented graphs and statistics on the uninsured demographic profiles in Kansas. Highlights of his presentation included:

1. Research Grants Support
2. 2000 State Planning Grant Project Objectives
3. Sample Design
4. SPG Regions in Kansans
5. The Survey Process
6. Percentage of Kansans Residents Who Do Not Have Health Insurance
7. Uninsurance Kansans under Age 65 by Region
8. Uninsured Adults by Region
9. Uninsured Children by Region
10. Uninsured Kansans under Age 65, Statewide and by Region, Percent of Total # of Uninsured Kansans in Each Region
11. Uninsured Kansans Statewide and By Region, with Population Estimates
12. Length of Time Without Health Coverage, Uninsured Kansans under Age 65
13. Informant Counties
14. Primary Themes
15. The Uninsured Population
16. Uninsured Kansans under Age 65 by Specific Age Category
17. Uninsured Kansans under Age 65 by Race and Ethnicity, Distribution and Population Size
18. Uninsured Kansans under Age 65 by Income as a Percent of FPL, and Distribution of Uninsured
19. Uninsured Kansans Age 18-64 by Employment Status and Distribution of Uninsured
20. Uninsured Working Adults by Income Level
21. Uninsured Full-Time Employed Kansans Age 18-64 by size of Firm
22. Uninsured Working Adults by Industry Type
23. Uninsured Working Adults: Employer-Based Health Insurance Coverage Offers
24. Offers of Employment-Based Health Insurance Coverage: Family Coverage vs. Employee-Only Coverage
25. Health Insurance Offers by Firm Type
26. Percent of Employed Kansans Age 18-64 Who Report that Their Employer Offers Health Insurance Coverage
27. Enrollment of Employed Kansans Age 18-64 Who Are Eligible for Employment-Based Insurance

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28. Most Uninsured Kansans have a Linkage to the Workforce
29. Small Business Health Insurance Survey Findings
30. Rising Cost of Health Insurance
31. Impact on Small Employers
32. Firms Offering Health Insurance
33. Firms Not Offering Health Insurance

A copy of her presentation is (Attachment 3) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chair asked for questions or comments from the Committee. Questions came from Senators Palmer and Barnett regarding, cost vs. coverage, less quality coverage, individual market study, small businesses, pre-tax dollars.

### **Introduction of Bills**

Chairman Barnett thanked his guest speakers and proceeded to introduce a bill for Senator Vratil who was unable to attend the Committee meeting. The proposal concerns the Cleveland College of Chiropractic Medicine.

The draft of this bill was not available at the time of the meeting.

Senator Jordan motioned to adopt the introduced bill. Senator Palmer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Chair announced that the final item on the agenda was for the Minutes to be approved for the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee for January 10, 2007.

The motion was made by Senator Haley to approve the Minutes. It was seconded by Senator Palmer and the motion carried.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2007