

Minutes of Meeting - HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE - 56th
ASSEMBLY SESSION - February 17, 1971

Present: Wilson, Prince, Valentine, Glaser, Homer, and Poggione

Absent: Smalley, White, and Swallow

Guests: David Tomlinson, State Welfare Division; W.J. LaBadie, State Welfare Division; Shirley Wilute, League of Women Voters; Orville Wahrenbrock, State Welfare Division; Roger S. Trounday, State Welfare Division; Dr. Carr, State Health Department; Lola Lynch, mother and taxpayer; J. T. Merha, United Taxpayers of Washoe County; Mrs. Lawrence Callahan, parent and taxpayer.

Meeting was convened by Chairman Wilson at 2:45 P.M.

A.B. 70: Permits minors to be treated for venereal disease without parental consent.

Dr. Carr, State Health Department talked for this bill. He stated that any bill or legislation that will help get people into a healthier situation needs a plus mark. Venereal disease is mostly among the younger kids. A number of these kids will not seek help if they have to go through their parents. Overall, if we are going to do anything about venereal disease, we have to do everything we can. Dr. Carr felt this bill would help VD cases even though he was sure it would not solve it.

Lola Lynch, parent and taxpayer, spoke against the bill. She said that she knew that as the law stands, children are not to be treated for VD without the parents or guardians consent. She then had her daughter speak.

Mary Lynch, high school student, stated that the students have sex education in mixed groups. A man told the students that if any of them thought they had VD, they could be treated without their parents consent.

The daughter was then excused from the meeting.

Mrs. Lynch spoke again. She said the school health nurses have been telling the students that they can be treated without the parents consent. She wanted to know what happens when these kids go down to the VD Department, are they being treated and parents notified. She understood the Health Department has been treating minors. It is against the law. If this is the case, she wanted to know if this bill was just a cover for these physicians that were treating minors already. She felt the Health Department should try to get in touch with the parents first and then if they couldn't, treat the child. She felt this bill was telling the children they can't talk to their parents about this problem. She also felt that parents should be given more control over their children--not less.

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Mr. Wilson stated he felt it was great to have this kind of relationship with their children where they can talk with them. He wanted to know about the children that weren't able to talk with their parents or didn't have parents--what then?

Mrs. Lynch felt that if the children didn't have parents then let them go ahead and be treated, but the ones that do have parents or guardians, which most of them do have between the ages of 11-15, should not be treated until the parents are notified. She suggested sending a registered letter to the parents that cannot be reached by phone. Give the parents five days to contact the Health Department. If they do not get in touch with the Health Department within five days, then go ahead and start treatment on the kids.

Mrs. Lawrence Callahan spoke against the bill. She felt the parents should be notified first. Then, put a dead line on it. If there isn't proof of action after this, let the state step in.

Dr. Homer spoke against the bill. He felt no child should be treated for VD until the parents are notified. If the parents do not care-ok-this could be put on record and the child would be treated without their parents consent. People say we are dealing with an epidemic. The Health Department classifies 10% an epidemic. What about the other 90% that does not have VD? He felt this type of legislation would only be creating more problems.

Mr. Wilson then excused the guests.

Mrs. Lynch asked that A.B. 159 be held off until some parents could be at the meeting. She suggested holding it until A.B. 226 and A.B. 227 was discussed.

Dr. Homer made a motion to have a public hearing on March 1 concerning A.B. 159, 226, 227; Mr. Prince seconded; carried unanimously.

A.B. 150: Amplifies definition of "dependent child."

Mr. Prince said he had known kids to go to school until they were 30 years old. This could be high school, college or trade school. It doesn't put any limitation on this.

Mr. Warenbrock said he was getting an amendment stating they could go to school as long as they were making a reasonable effort.

Mr. Valentine felt they should at least get a passing grade before they could stay in school.

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Mr. Wilson brought up a specific case where a young lady was attending a school and obtaining passing grades. When she became 18, she was taken off her parents list as a dependent child. The girl couldn't go on to school. She had to drop out. She later became pregnant. If she had not had the ADC Grant taken away from her, she could have continued in school and received an education. He also felt there was a lot of discrimination toward the ADC recipients.

Discussion followed.

A.B. 174: Prohibits counting of pills in filling prescriptions and taking prescriptions over telephone by person other than pharmacist.

Mr. Wilson stated he had talked with Assemblyman Smith and the motivation for this bill was that some of the chain stores were using pharmaceutical clerks and just help to dispense with pills in their establishment.

Mr. Poggione felt that pharmacists were not there to count pills and this may put a restraint on them. He felt pharmaceutical clerks were necessary to the pharmacist.

A.C.R. 15: Directs health division of Department of Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation not to move laboratory from Clark County.

Mr. Glaser felt this would depend on what the Ways and Means Committee decided on A.B. 235.

Mr. Valentine made a motion to hold A.C.R. 15 until a decision is made on A.B. 235 in the Ways and Means Committee; Poggione seconded; carried unanimously.

The committee discussed the welfare problem. They decided it would be best to go out and talk with some of the welfare recipients themselves and see what they had to say. It was agreed that they would.

Meeting adjourned.

