

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Asbjornson, Karen
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2003 11:29 AM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: FW: SB73

CR email

Karen Asbjornson
Office of Senator Carol Roessler
(608) 266-5300/1-888-736-8720
Karen.Asbjornson@legis.state.wi.us

*No public
hearing held.*

-----Original Message-----

From: Joan Burns [mailto:burns@Waisman
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2003 1:29 PM
To: sen.roessler@legis.state.WI.US
Subject: SB73

Dear Senator Roessler:

I would like to register my concern and opposition to SB73. It seems that there have been several task forces in the past to address the plan for the state centers for the developmentally disabled and this new task force would be redundant in it's task.

I am concerned that representatives from the department of veterans affairs and the department of corrections are to be included on the task force. I can't imagine how those representatives can possibly have knowledge about the care and needs of persons with developmental disabilities!!

I am the parent of a daughter who lives at Central Wis. Center and have played both an advocacy role and a professional role in the area of developmental disabilities for over forty years.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

Joan Burns

Joan K. Burns, M.S., M.S.S.W.
Clinical Professor Emerita
University of Wisconsin
331 Waisman Center
1500 Highland Ave.
Madison, WI 53705
608-263-5611
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Halbur, Jennifer

From: Asbjornson, Karen
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2003 9:46
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: FW: SB 73

CR email - she wants this testimony read at the hearing tomorrow.

Karen Asbjornson
Office of Senator Carol Roessler
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Karen.Asbjornson@legis.state.wi.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Natalie McClellan [mailto:natalie.mcclellan@centurytel.net]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2003 9:31 AM
To: Senator Carol Roessler
Subject: SB 73

Dear Senator Roessler,

Please read and enter the following testimony at the public hearing tomorrow 9/16/03.

I am the mother of a resident at Central Wisconsin Center. My son, AJ, is 19 years old and has resided at CWC since he was 11. Prior to that time, he was at home with my husband and me. I would like to take a moment of your time and tell you a little about AJ.

AJ was born with Spina Bifida. He also has a condition called Arnold Chiari Syndrome which affects his ability to swallow and breath. As a result of this, AJ has a G tube in his stomach thru which he is fed. He also has a tracheostomy thru which he breaths. Despite all of this, he was a very bright, intelligent little boy with a great sense of humor and a big caring heart. He was able to learn to walk with the help of braces and crutches. He was able to learn to talk, even tho' his vocal cords were paralyzed. He was an incredibly determined, happy boy....thriving, not just surviving.

When he was 5 he contracted a very severe form of meningitis, which caused massive brain damage. He no longer speaks, except to say two words..."no" when he is unhappy and "hurray" when he is not. He has seizures, despite the fact that he is on 3 different medications and under a doctor's watch. He has latex allergies. He no longer walks. He has kyphosis of his spine. He is susceptible to respiratory and urinary tract infections and often stops breathing altogether. He requires catherization every day. He continues to be G tube fed. He is a very medically complex person.

Senator Roessler, medical technology has advanced to the point that people like AJ are being saved in emergency rooms and operating rooms all over the state. We need to provide these medically complex people the best care that they can get. They are best and most economically served in a central location that is staffed by trained medical personnel. CWC is the one and only place in this state that can handle the needs of medically complex people like my son. There exists no other. There will always be people like AJ who simply do not belong in community homes which are staffed with personnel that are underqualified and do not possess the depth of experience and knowledge to deal with the medical complexity of people like AJ. We need CWC to serve this medically complex segment of our population.

I am asking you for two things. Please come to CWC and meet my son AJ. See for yourself that it is a well staffed and well run facility. Also, please do not vote to close CWC. As a human race, we are judged to be only as good as how we care for those among us who can not care for themselves. These people deserve and need our support. This can not be about the budget or money or politics or some individual's advancement. It is too important for our culture, society and the people who live at CWC.

09/15/2003

I would be happy to discuss this further and offer to give you any and all information that I have on AJ and his case. He is still a wonderful person.....loving and good. Please help him to continue to live at CWC.

Thank you.

Natalie Mc Clellan
910 Lake Street
Onalaska, Wi 54650
608.781.6167

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Asbjornson, Karen
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2003 12:06 PM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: FW: Closing of State C enters SB73.....Parental
Importance: High
 CR email

Karen Asbjornson
 Office of Senator Carol Roessler
 (608) 266-5300/1-888-736-8720
 Karen.Asbjornson@legis.state.wi.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Jane [mailto:essence@wctc.net]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2003 11:52 AM
To: Sen.Roessler@legis.state.wi.us; Sen.lassa@legis.state.wi.us; rep.schneider@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Closing of State C enters SB73.....Parental Input
Importance: High

It has come to our attention once again, that legislation is being prepared regarding closing of the State Centers which serve the developmentally disabled and retarded. I have written letters previously, because we have a grave concern for the continued care of our Son James who has been a resident of Central Wisconsin Center for the past thirty three years.

Previously there have been concerns about some closings or moving of residents to community facilities, and for each of these years, we have been against doing so for our Son Jim. It was a difficult decision many years ago to place Jim in a facility away from home, yet we knew with his disabilities, we could not provide adequately for him to give him all the advantages he deserved had he stayed in our home. Our community offered little in the way of services and there is nothing in any of our communities that meets his needs, the way Central Center does. We have been most pleased with his care all these years and feel it would be unfair to move Jim now at his age, to something else. It would truly devastate him and would have severe effects on his care to change now at this age. Our Son Jim is severely handicapped with CP and arm and leg strictures **and his inability to speak is we are choosing once again, to speak for Jim and the other residents like him, who cannot speak for themselves!**

Why would a group of disabled people wish to speak for ALL disabled people? We believe it good to move those persons out of a center who are able to work and live in a community setting. **OUR SON is not able to do so.** The services provided him, the kind and loving people who care for him, and the medical advantages provided him through the years has been more than adequate for his benefit and health. He is quite happy where he is now.

We are writing to draw attention to the fact that **not ALL** residents would be helped by such a drastic move. Please pay attention to the underlying effects and outcome for our residents who cannot speak for themselves. Saving money is not a good reason for our sons and daughters who cannot help themselves in ANY WAY, and we must have more compassion and understanding for them than the almighty dollar.

Please find it in your heart to look at this bill carefully and I would encourage you to go to Central Wisconsin Center and visit our son and the many others who also reside there, and see what we are talking about. Please feel free to contact us if you would seek more input as well. We can be reached at 715 424-3593 and our is: Brian and Mary Jane Oehler, 456 Sparks Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-6140 or email us at either essence@wctc.net or boehler@wctc.net.

Thank you for your time and hearing our plight once again. We pray that those who seek to displace our sons

09/15/2003

and daughters will look at the bigger picture and leave well enough alone!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brian (Mary Jane) Oehler

SEP 23 2003

September 18, 2003

The Southern Wisconsin Center was created in 1919 by the State of Wisconsin to help house Disabled individuals that could not be taken care of by their families due to their critical condition.

The Southern Wisconsin Center is currently housing 280 severely disabled individuals. The Southern Wisconsin Center receives revenues by Supplemental Security Income (S.S.I) as well as Social Security Disability income.

Within the last ten years, we the parents of these Severely Disabled individuals have been threaten with the closing of the Center and been given a Group Home as an alternative.

As of yet, we have not seen any Group Home location nor, do we want our Son's or Daughters placed at any of these Group Homes due to their lack of Medical care, as well as Security that is necessary to care for these individuals.

At this point, I understand that there isn't a quick fix to this situation but, we must continue to provide the same level of care that is currently being given to these individuals due to their condition since, they cannot take care of themselves or by their families.

I am sure that each and every State Official in Wisconsin can agree on a solution to this situation.

Sincerely,



John P Vena

7805 Howe
Kenosha, Wis. 53143

Jermstad, Sara

From: Rose, Laura
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2003 1:19 PM
To: Jermstad, Sara
Subject: RE: July 22 hearing

Sara,

SBs 73 and 74 were reintroduced into the 2003 session by the Legislative Council by a unanimous voice vote on March 12, 2003.

The bills were originally introduced into the 2001 session. The Committee and Legislative Council Votes were as follows:

SB 73: (WLC: 0142/1), relating to requiring the creation of a task force to develop a plan to close at least one state center for the developmentally disabled, was recommended by a Committee vote of Ayes, 13 (Sens. Robson and Roessler; Reps. Foti and Plouff; and Public Members Brinkman, Friese, Helgesen, McGwin, Olson, Ryan, Thompson, Ward and Wittenmyer); and Noes, 0.

At its May 15, 2001 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council voted to introduce WLC: 0142/1 on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes, 19 (Reps. Rhoades, Black, Bock, Foti, Freese, Gard, Huber, Jensen, Lehman and Meyerhofer; and Sens. Risser, Baumgart, Burke, Chvala, Darling, George, Grobschmidt, Robson and Zien); Noes, 0; and Absent, 3 (Rep. Stone; and Sens. Panzer and Rosenzweig). The proposal was subsequently introduced as 2001 Senate Bill 231 and 2001 Assembly Bill 473.

SB 74: (WLC: 0059/2), relating to adding legislative members to the council on developmental disabilities, and requiring an annual report to the Legislature; WLC: 0060/2, relating to permitting counties to provide the nonfederal share of MA to create additional brain injury waiver slots; WLC: 0100/2, relating to requiring the DHFS to promulgate rules relating to registered nurse visits as part of a review of a plan of care for persons receiving personal care services under the MA program, and requiring rule-making; and WLC: 0116/1, relating to requiring the DHFS to develop a plan to require one subunit within the DHFS to administer all institutional and community-based services for persons with developmental disabilities; and to combine all funding under the MA program for institutional and community-based services into one appropriation.

The Committee vote was as follows: Ayes, 13 (Sens. Robson and Roessler; Reps. Foti and Plouff; and Public Members Brinkman, Friese, Helgesen, McGwin, Olson, Ryan, Thompson, Ward and Wittenmyer); Noes, 0.

These drafts were subsequently redrafted as WLC: 0151/1.

At its May 15, 2001 meeting, the JLC voted to introduce WLC: 0151/1 into both houses of the Legislature on a roll call vote of Ayes, 18 (Reps. Rhoades, Bock, Foti, Freese, Gard, Huber, Jensen, Lehman and Meyerhofer; and Sens. Risser, Baumgart, Burke, Chvala, Darling, George, Grobschmidt, Robson and Zien); Noes, 0; and Absent, 4 (Reps. Black and Stone; and Sens. Panzer and Rosenzweig).

-----Original Message-----

From: Jermstad, Sara
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2003 11:25 AM
To: Rose, Laura
Subject: RE: July 22 hearing

Laura,

SB 73 and 74 were from the Special Committee on Developmentally Disabilities - SB73 relates to the creation of a task force to develop a plan for closing the centers and SB74 relates to adding legislators to the Council on DD, expanding eligibility and requiring submission of waiver requests, etc. I believe the Discipline of Health Care Professionals bills were not re-introduced by Leg Council this session. In fact, Senator Roessler is planning to (re) introduce those bills soon.

Thank you for the votes for the other bills. I appreciate it.

Sara

Sara Jermstad
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(608)266-5300 / 888-736-8720

-----Original Message-----

From: Rose, Laura
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2003 10:14 AM
To: Jermstad, Sara
Subject: RE: July 22 hearing

Sara,

SBs 73 and 74 were developed by the Special Committee on Discipline of Health Care Professionals. That committee met in 1999, and the report I sent over before contains the committee and Legislative Council votes on that bill. Those bills were reintroduced into the 2001 session by the Legislative Council on March 14, 2001 by a unanimous voice vote.

Here are the committee and Legislative Council votes on the other bills:

MENTAL HEALTH PARITY: SBs 71 and 72:

SPECIAL COMMITTEE VOTES

- WLC: 0119/1, relating to treatment of prescription drug costs, diagnostic testing, and payments under mandated coverage of mental health and alcoholism and other drug abuse problems: Ayes, 14 (Sen. Hansen; Reps. Vrakas and Lehman; and Public Members Beilman, Frett, Gross, Krumholz, Moulthrop, Reider, Rosenzweig, Schick, Slota-Varma, Wieske, and Yunk); Noes, 0; and Absent, 0. [The recommended proposal was subsequently drafted as LRB-1978/2.]
- WLC: 0120/1, relating to increasing coverage limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders or alcoholism or other drug abuse problems: Ayes, 8 (Sen. Hansen; Rep. Lehman; and Public Members Beilman, Gross, Moulthrop, Rosenzweig, Slota-Varma, and Yunk); Noes, 6 (Rep. Vrakas; and Public Members, Frett, Krumholz, Reider, Schick, and Wieske); Absent, 0. [The recommended proposal was subsequently drafted as LRB-1979/1.]

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL VOTES

The Joint Legislative Council voted to recommend the proposed bill drafts on March 12, 2003. The votes on the drafts were as follows:

Rep. Freese moved, seconded by Sen. Panzer, that LRB-1978/2, relating to treatment of prescription drug costs, diagnostic testing, and payments under mandated insurance coverage of treatment for nervous and mental disorders and alcoholism and other drug abuse problems and granting rule-making authority, be introduced by the Joint Legislative Council. The motion passed by a voice vote.

[Sen. Welch asked that the record reflect that he voted "no" on LRB-1978/2.]

Sen. Erpenbach moved, seconded by Rep. Coggs, that LRB-1979/1, relating to increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders or alcoholism or other drug abuse problems, be introduced by the Joint Legislative Council. The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows:

Ayes, 13 (Sens. Erpenbach, Harsdorf, Panzer, and Risser; and Reps. Coggs, Foti, Freese, Kaufert, Kreuser, Lehman, Schneider, Townsend, and Travis); Noes, 4 (Sens. Lasee, Darling, and Welch; and Rep. Wieckert); Absent, 4 (Sens. Decker, Ellis, and George; and Rep. Gard); and Vacancy, 1.

[Rep. Gard noted that had he been present, he would have voted "Aye" on LRB-1979/1.]

RELATIVE CAREGIVERS: SB 82:

SPECIAL COMMITTEE VOTES

By a mail ballot dated February 10, 2003, the Special Committee voted to recommend WLC: 0127/1 to the JLC for introduction in the 2003-04 Session of the Legislature. The votes on the draft were as follows:

- WLC: 0127/1, relating to the kinship care program, notice of guardianship proceedings, creating a medical services consent form, and requesting the joint legislative council to study guardianship and legal custody: Ayes, 12 (Sen. Moore; Reps. Kestell, Krug, and Ott; and Public Members Albrecht, Cabraal, Gonzalez, Hafner, Huber, Kratz, McAllister, and Medaris); and Noes, 0.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL VOTES

At its February 19, 2003 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council voted as follows on the following recommendation of the Special Committee:

Introduction by the Joint Legislative Council of WLC: 0127/1 **PASSED** by a unanimous voice vote. WLC: 01271 was subsequently introduced as 2003 Assembly Bill 201 and 2003 Senate Bill 82.

STATE TRIBAL RELATIONS: SB 192:

- WLC: 0148/1, relating to tribal administration of rehabilitation reviews for persons who otherwise may not operate, be employed at, contract with, or reside at an entity that provides care for children or adults and granting rule-making authority. The motion passed on a vote of *Ayes, 12* (Reps. Musser, Boyle, Hines, Pettis, and Sherman;

Sen. Zien; and Public Members Bichler, Brown, Gordon, Ninham, Puskarenko, and Taylor; *Noes, 1* (Rep. Coggs); and *Not Voting, 4* (Sen. George; and Public Members Besaw, Bigboy, and Thundercloud). This was subsequently redrafted by the LRB as LRB-2552/1.

The Legislative Council vote was Ayes, 15 (Sens. Erpenbach, Brown, Harsdorf, Risser, Lasee, Darling, Welch, Decker; Reps. Wieckert, Freese, Kaufert, Lehman, Schneider, Townsend and Travis); No, 2 (Rep. Gard and Sen. Ellis); Not voting, 4 (Reps. Coggs, Kreuser and Sens. George and Panzer); and Rep. Foti indicating that he would have voted "no" if present.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jermstad, Sara
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2003 4:23 PM
To: Rose, Laura
Subject: July 22 hearing

Laura,

You probably noticed that all the bills we will be hearing at the July 22 hearing are Leg Council bills. Carol would like to know what the Leg Council votes were for each of the bills. Would you be able to find that out for me?

Thank you,
Sara

Sara Jermstad
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