

Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE

Minutes of Meeting -- April 1, 1971

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order at 1:22 p.m.

Members present: Chairman Walker
 Senator Hug
 Senator Young

Absent: Senator Hecht
 Senator Herr

Guests: Dr. Otto Ravenholt, Clark Co. Health District
 Orville Wahrenbrock, Health, Welfare & Rehabilitation
 Gil Blonsley
 Anne Roberts, League of Women Voters
 Shirley Wedow, PTA

AB 159 Permits treatment of minor for drug abuse without parental consent.

Dr. Otto Ravenholt said that because of the growing use and abuse of drugs in both adolescents and juveniles they are trying to develop medical contact services for individuals under 18. He gave an example of the free clinics in Los Angeles where young people can go for counseling and medical help in many areas such as drugs, venereal diseases and infections and he felt it helped to bridge the gap between them and the establishment.

Senator Young said he had some reservations about the bill if it had no provision to notify parents because unlike the treatment of venereal disease the treatment of drug abuse could be a long-lasting problem and felt the parent probably should be informed about it at some point. Dr. Ravenholt felt this restriction still might be damaging and that the physician needed some protection particularly in cases where you might not be able to contact the parent.

Senator Walker felt that possibly a distinction should be made whereby a child could get counseling without the parents consent but that an attempt should be made to contact parents when medical treatment is necessary. Mrs. Wedow said some of the parents had expressed a concern about this too. She said they wouldn't want to curtail any emergency treatment but she would like to see some provision in the bill to relieve parents' minds.

It was decided to strike subsection (b) and to include language to notify parents of medical treatment, not counseling, if possible.

Senator Young moved to "amend and do pass", seconded by Senator Hug and carried.

AB 713 Requires first-time and current public and private school enrollees to be immunized for certain diseases.

Dr. Ravenholt suggested that the word "toxoids" be removed on page 1, line 10 and on page 2, line 33. He also suggested removing "the dates upon which" on page 1, line 16 because that language makes

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it too unworkable. He also expressed a concern about Rubeola not being included in the immunizations because it is much more damaging than Rubella which is included, but he says the immunization is expensive and the County doesn't have the money to finance it.

There was some discussion on the problems that might be encountered by requiring these immunizations at the time of enrollment and whether the clinic would be able to take care of all the children before the school year begins.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Approved _____