

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES  
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Legislative Committee**

**LOCATION**

**Governor's Council Conference Room  
3601 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference**

**Meeting Date**

**February 27, 2014  
12:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Anthony Cravalho  
Art Delaune  
Dean Gates – Chair  
Alex Gimarc  
Banarsi Lal  
Terese Kashi  
Steve Lesko  
Christine King

**Staff:**

Teresa Holt  
Patrick Reinhart  
Hannah Foreman  
Christie Reinhardt

**CALL TO ORDER – 12:00 p.m.**  
**ROLL CALL**

***Announcements and Good News***

Patrick Reinhart announced that HB 211 is all the way through the House and passed 34 to 0 on Monday. It is now in the Senate.

Dean Gates announced that he forwarded the recommendations of the Legislative Committee to support the House and Senate exit exam bills. He noted that the Education Committee recommended to not support the Governor's omnibus education bill. The Executive Committee voted to support the House and Senate bills. Dean also announced that the Executive Committee had a split vote to support the driver's license identification bill.

Banarsi Lal shared that House Bill 263, the senior benefits program, passed the House yesterday with a vote of 38 to 0.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Teresa Holt asked to amend the agenda to include a discussion about House Joint Resolution 1 and Senate Joint Resolution 9.

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended. The motion **PASSED**.

***Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes***

Alex Gimarc **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2014 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

***Correspondence***

Teresa Holt reported that the Executive Committee in their meeting yesterday also voted to write a letter of support for the Alaska Brain Injury Network's legislative funding request for approximately \$200,000 for infrastructure.

## **REPORTS**

### ***Report from the Chair***

In addition to his information under announcements, Dean Gates wanted to appreciate the staff's support in tracking the legislative issues and sending out the legislative updates.

### ***Report from Staff***

Patrick Reinhart reported that he was able to attend the vote on the House floor on Monday for the Employment First legislation, which was nice. Patrick commented that Representative Stoltze spoke about the legislation for about ten minutes and conveyed stories about his family member as well as a visit he made to the Project SEARCH site at Mat-Su.

Patrick reported that a Trust Advocacy Summit was held in Juneau, and they were able to train another 22 advocates from the Juneau area who were then scheduled to attend meetings with their legislators.

They were also able to set up a Lunch and Learn session where five of the advocates told their stories, and it went really well and was filmed for Gavel to Gavel. He stated that there were approximately 50 to 60 legislators and staffers in attendance, and several legislators had questions afterwards.

Patrick Reinhart announced that he will be taking personal leave, so any questions related to legislative information should be directed to Teresa Holt or Hannah Foreman.

Dean Gates asked if anyone was able to attend the caucus held at the Loussac Library in Anchorage last Saturday. Patrick Reinhart stated that he didn't find out about the caucus until too late and was unable to attend. Patrick added that Representative Millett and Senator Meyer are holding a constituent meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Little Italy Restaurant in Anchorage.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***House Bill 210 – Safe Students Act***

Teresa Holt reported that the Council has been working diligently with Representative Millett's office to amend the bill. The psychiatric medication piece has been removed from the bill. The nurses association wants to do a separate bill that deals specifically with nurses and schools administering medications across the board, which the Council will track.

After discussing it with national experts, another piece of the bill that was removed dealt with the physical escort.

The final piece that was removed from the bill was the portion about including private schools, so now the bill only affects public schools. Teresa added that they are hoping to see the final draft of the bill within the next week or so.

Teresa Holt stated that the Senate companion bill, SB 204, was introduced on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The Council has contacted Senator Coghill's staff to offer assistance.

In terms of advocacy, Christie Reinhardt has been contacting constituents in the districts of the House Education Committee to find individuals who are willing to call their legislator and share their personal story about restraint and seclusion. Next week she will be focusing on the Senate Education Committee members. If anyone on the Legislative Committee knows of someone that would like to tell their story, please let staff know.

Christie Reinhardt added that she has also contacted parent advocacy groups to encourage people to testify.

### ***HB 211- Employment First Legislation***

Patrick Reinhart reiterated that HB 211 has passed the House and has been referred to the Senate. He stated that the expectation is that within the next couple of weeks, the Labor and Commerce Committee will hear this a second time. At that point, it would go to Senate Rules Committee

for scheduling for a Senate floor vote. He stated that this bill is moving along quite well, and they don't need to plan for any more testimony at this time.

### ***Complex Behavior Collaborative***

Patrick Reinhart stated that while he was in Juneau this week, he found out that the funding for the CBC might be included in House Finance, but they won't know until the House closes out its Health and Social Services budget. He also felt it was also likely that the Senate Finance Committee will put it into their budget, but they don't close out until mid March.

Teresa Holt stated that Jeff Jessee's plan of action for advocacy included starting to gather people who might testify once they see the House budget next week. Patrick Reinhart added that the public hearings for the House Finance Committee are open to the general public, and people need to sign up at their Legislative Information Office early to get on the list.

### ***Position and Strategy on HB 220/SB 111 - Repeal of the HSGQE***

Patrick Reinhart stated that HB 220 has passed out of the Education Committee and went to Rules yesterday, but for an unknown reason it was sent back to the Finance Committee. He has not seen any action on SB 111.

Patrick Reinhart stated that he is still interested in pursuing a reach back to give students a diploma that received a certificate of attendance within the last 10 years. Teresa Holt stated that they have heard a lot of interest regarding this idea, and she will contact the sponsors of both of these bills and ask if they need the Council to gather people to testify. If so, it can go out in tomorrow's legislative alert.

### ***Position and Strategy on HB 232 – Disability Designation on ID***

Art Delaune reported that this bill has been in the State Affairs Committee with no action for almost a month. He stated that he believes the big question with the bill is the training component. He stated that the work group that has been pushing this from Fairbanks is going to convene a

meeting with Lisa Cauble from the Trust Training Cooperative to brainstorm ideas.

Art further reported that members of the work group have also talked with the police departments in Anchorage and Fairbanks, and they will be invited to meet with the work group to discuss the barriers they see.

Art Delaune added that the latest version of the bill has removed the Governor's Council as the agency providing support for this initiative.

### ***HB 280 – Education for Deaf and Hearing Impaired***

Dean Gates stated that an update to this bill is that Representative LeDoux's staff has agreed to hold this bill aside and introduce it next year after they are able to hold town hall meetings as well as receive other input from educators and the deaf community.

The committee members agreed to discontinue tracking this bill at this time.

### ***House Joint Resolution 1 and Senate Joint Resolution 9***

Teresa Holt stated that these bills are companion resolutions tied to the Governor's omnibus education bill. These bills would allow for a change in the state constitution regarding allowing public education funds to be used for private and religious schools. The Council received a call yesterday from a couple of advocacy organizations that wanted to bring it to the attention of the Council.

Teresa stated that the reason it is concerning to the Council is that private schools and religious schools are not required to accept or provide specialized education for students with disabilities. Christie Reinhardt added that it would attach the educational funding to each individual child that wanted to go to a private school and would directly take that money out of their neighborhood public school at a rate of almost \$5,000 per student. Neighborhood public schools and charter schools are required by federal and state law to provide special education services.

Committee members engaged in a discussion regarding special education funding in school districts and the pros and cons of the Council getting involved in taking a position on this legislation. They also discussed this being a very heated political issue.

The committee members agreed to keep these joint resolutions on their legislative agenda throughout the session and receive weekly legislative updates on them.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**

- Every Friday – Trust legislative meetings.
- Disability Policy Seminar – Washington, D.C., April 7 – 9.

Patrick Reinhart stated that Council members are invited to participate in the Trust legislative meetings on Fridays.

Dean Gates reported that the Executive Committee has voted for him to attend the Disability Policy Seminar.

Christine King announced that there will be an offender conference at the Hotel Captain Cook on March 18 and 19. On the 18<sup>th</sup> the conference will be focusing on youth with disabilities and cognitive impairments who offend. Teresa Holt added that the Council has sent out this announcement on their listserv.

### **TIME AND DATE OF NEXT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Committee members discussed the possibility of the next meeting being held on March 13<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 1:00. As a couple of the committee members have prior engagements at that time, Patrick Reinhart will e-mail committee members for an alternate date.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Christine King **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.