

**SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CITY, COUNTY, & LOCAL AFFAIRS  
HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CITY, COUNTY, & LOCAL AFFAIRS  
MEETING JOINTLY**

**OCTOBER 18, 2012**

**MINUTES**

Senate and House Interim Committees on City, County, and Local Affairs met Thursday, October 18, 2012, at 2:00 p.m., in Room B, MAC Building, State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committee members present were Senator Jerry Taylor, Senate Chair; Representatives Charolotte Wagner, House Chair; Tommy Baker, Nate Bell, David Branscum, David Fielding, Jeremy Gillam, Andy Mayberry, Leslee Milam-Post, and Kathy Webb.

Other members present were Senators Joyce Elliott and Mary Anne Salmon; Representatives Ann Clemmer, Greg Leding, Buddy Lovell, Johnnie Roebuck, and Jeff Wardlaw.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – [Exhibit B, B-1]**

Minutes of the August 8-10, 2012 meetings were approved by acclimation.

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINAL REPORT FOR ISP 2011-032 "An Act Concerning the Collection of Data from Political Subdivisions of the State on Issues Pertaining to the Status of Certain Groups" by Representative Kathy Webb and Senator Linda Chesterfield [Exhibit C] and Handout**

Chairman Wagner recognized Representative Webb, sponsor of ISP 2011-032 for a presentation. Representative Webb gave background information about her ISP and said that a proposal to reinstate the Arkansas Women's Commission during the 2011 legislative session failed because legislators agreed not to create any new boards or commissions. She also referenced a 2010 report by the *Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR)* which ranked Arkansas last in the U.S. for economic opportunities for women. Representative Webb formed a **Women's Economic Study Group** with over 50 women from across the state, including legislators, who collected, researched and reviewed data impacting women in Arkansas.

The **Women's Economic Study Group** divided into subcommittees, selected categories of study from the 2010 IWPR report, did research and held meetings for 15 months. The following subcommittees were formed:

- o Poverty (Elderly Women Living in Poverty)
- o Women-Owned Businesses/Women in Professional Positions
- o Health (Women Without Health Insurance)
- o Pay Equity

- o Education/Incarcerated Women
- o Domestic Violence/Mental Health/Teen Pregnancy

Representative Webb introduced Lynette Watts, Executive Director, Women's Foundation of Arkansas to give a report on behalf of the **Education/Incarcerated Women Subcommittee:**

Issues researched by the subcommittee included high school and college completion rates for females and the link between a woman's education levels and her job opportunities. Ms. Watts discussed a report by the *Alliance for Excellence in Education*, which ranks Arkansas 38<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. for the number of female students graduating from high school. Data in the report also shows that only one in four female high school students in Arkansas graduate. 47% of the total statewide female high school population does not graduate. Ms. Watts said data shows the state would realize an increase in earnings of \$42 million if 100% of the female student population completed high school. Arkansas would also see an increase in tax revenues of \$3.5 million if all females graduated.

The subcommittee also reviewed the female student population in post-secondary education. The IWPR report shows that only 19% of the total female population in Arkansas earns a four year college education. This percentage ranks Arkansas 50<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. Factors impacting women's choices of a post-secondary education include access to athletic scholarships and the failure to encourage females to enter science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) fields. Subcommittee members reviewed current data from Arkansas's colleges and universities concerning their retention rates of female students. It was learned that participation in athletics significantly improves retention rates. The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems issued a 2011 report, which stated that an increase in the number of bachelor's degrees, particularly in the critical STEM fields must be a priority for Arkansas to transition to a knowledge-based jobs economy.

An additional issue studied by the subcommittee was the **Women's Faculty and Leadership Roles in Higher Education Institutions:**

Data collected on women in the state's educational systems was reviewed relating to positions and salaries during the 2009-2010 school year which indicated:

- Of 202 superintendents in grades K-12, 38 are females
- Only 38% of higher education faculty positions are held by females
- Of the 34 higher education positions of chancellor and/or president in two and four year institutions, only six are females

The subcommittee also looked at **Educational Opportunities for Incarcerated Women:** They found that the average education grade level for women entering prison is the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. A total of 85% of females who receive a GED while incarcerated do not return to prison. The rate increases to 98% for females who receive an associate degree while in prison.

The final issue studied by the subcommittee was **Human Trafficking**:

The subcommittee's research on human trafficking in Arkansas found that no system exists to track data. The federal definition for sex trafficking or human trafficking is "The act of forcing or coercing someone into the commercial sex trade against his or her will". The Arkansas definition requires proof of force, fraud, or coercion, even when minors are involved in the commercial sex act. The subcommittee believes tracking human trafficking which involves minors is a challenge for Arkansas. No mechanism exists to provide aid to minor victims of either domestic or international trafficking, other than the juvenile justice system.

The **Education/Incarcerated Women Subcommittee** recommendations are:

- ✓ additional gender-based research and reporting is needed to identify factors regarding the differences in female and male students
- ✓ an increased emphasis encouraging female students to enter STEM fields
- ✓ encouragement of college women athletes
- ✓ inclusion of Women's History in K-12 grades
- ✓ improve school accountability of the number of drop-outs and include intervention solutions
- ✓ encourage school boards to increase the appointments of females to principal and superintendent positions
- ✓ encourage women to seek administrative positions at institutes of higher education
- ✓ encourage women to seek appointment to governing boards of higher education institutions
- ✓ continue to provide educational opportunities to incarcerated women
- ✓ change the definition of human trafficking in Arkansas to reflect the federal definition
- ✓ address the needs of victims of human trafficking
- ✓ develop and implement mandatory training of law enforcement personnel regarding human trafficking
- ✓ improve education and public awareness of human trafficking
- ✓ encourage higher education institutions to increase recruitment of women to fill administrative and faculty positions

Committee members asked Ms. Watts the following questions:

- What are the college graduation rates by gender for students at four year institutions?
- What is the number of high school athletes – male and female?
- What are the remediation rates for high school athletes entering college?

Subsequent to the meeting, Ms. Watts responded in writing to legislators questions. She sent her answers via e-mail to Bureau staff, which was then disseminated to legislators and Study Group Members. See attachments.

Representative Roebuck, legislative member of the Women's Economic Study Group, was recognized for comments. She said that Arkansas ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. for the number of citizens who receive baccalaureate degrees or certificates, which is a direct correlation to the state's per capita income. Representative Roebuck believes the state will never achieve a higher per capita income level without an increase in the number of citizens who obtain a post-secondary education. She also believes the Arkansas Women's Commission can be reinstated because it is not a new commission.

Representative Webb introduced Dr. Lee Lee Doyle, Professor Emeritus, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), to give a report on behalf of the Study Group's **Health (Women Without Health Insurance) Subcommittee**.

Dr. Doyle said that 16.2% of females in Arkansas are uninsured, which is three percentage points higher than the national rate. The highest percentage of uninsured females falls between 18 to 24 years of age. Factors which threaten the health of females in Arkansas include high risks for heart disease, throat cancer, lung disease, and obesity. In 2010, Arkansas ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. for teen births. Arkansas has one of the oldest adult populations in the U.S.

Dr. Doyle discussed gender-rating that is performed by some insurers. She gave an example of one insurance plan in Arkansas that charges rates 81% higher for a 25 year old female than rates charged to a male the same age for the same health coverage. Gender-rating by insurers has been banned in 14 states. 17 states will ban and/or limit the practice in the small insurance group market. Dr. Doyle said that a review of the Affordable Health Care Act (AHCA) mandates non-discrimination protection for insurance coverage. The AHCA prohibits insurance plans from gender-rating and bars insurers from excluding maternity care. The AHCA mandates that insurance plans in state-based and/or federal health insurance exchanges cover broad categories of essential health benefits such as outpatient care, hospitalization, prescription drugs, rehabilitation, mental health care, and maternity care.

Dr. Doyle said that poor health literacy has had a major impact in Arkansas because 20% of the population read at or below the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. Ms. Naomi Cottons, Director, the **Community Connector Program**, gave a presentation to the entire Women's Economic Study Group and described the work being done by the program to address health literacy problems in the state. Ms. Cottons said the program trains community health workers to be liaisons between health care providers and members of the community. They also connect citizens to health care resources and persuade people to take advantage of opportunities already established. Partners with the Connector Program are: the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), the Arkansas Rural Development Network, the Foundation for the Mid-South, and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. Ms. Cottons said that the goals of the program include focusing on the needs of the elderly, assisting adults living with disabilities, saving Medicaid funds, providing access to home and

community-based health care resources, and enabling citizens to remain in their homes instead of going into a nursing home.

Dr. Doyle told legislators that much of the original work done by the Community Connector Program demonstrated that their services are cost neutral. An evaluation of the program by the UAMS College of Public Health reported a savings of \$3.00 for every \$1.00 invested. The program is currently funded by Medicaid. It was originally established in Lee, Monroe, and Phillips counties, but has since expanded to 15 additional counties throughout the Delta region of the state. The Study Group believes the community health workers in the program could fill the role of navigators, as defined in the new consumer assistance plan, a component of the AHCA.

Dr. Doyle discussed a program entitled **School-Based Community Health Clinics (SBCHC)** created by former Lavaca School Superintendent Jared Cleveland. The clinics provide basic physical, mental, dental, and other services, which are beyond the scope of the school nurse, but are not intended to replace the school nurse. The intent is for the clinics to act as a resource for wellness and prevention. Typical characteristics of the clinics are:

- they are located within the school or on school grounds
- they work cooperatively with the school to become an integral part of the school
- they provide a comprehensive range of services that meet the specific physical and behavioral health needs of the young people in the community
- they provide clinical services through a qualified health care provider, such as a hospital, the Health Department, or a local medical practice
- they require parents to sign a written consent for their children to receive the full scope of services

The **Health (Women Without Health Insurance) Subcommittee** recommendations are:

- ✓ request the Arkansas Health Commissioner to partner with the federal government to certify and train Navigators as required by the AHCA
- ✓ request the Arkansas Insurance Commissioner to monitor specific instances of gender discrimination embedded in policy exclusions of coverage and make all findings public
- ✓ collect additional data to be compiled as a feasibility study of SBCHC clinics with the findings to be presented to the appropriate legislative committee(s)
- ✓ establish a **Health Literacy Center** to coordinate and fund activities to improve health care literacy in Arkansas, including the development of educational materials, coordinating public education, and outreach efforts. The Center should work with the SBCHC clinics and provide health care resource materials in school libraries

Representative Webb recognized Dr. Sara Beth Estes, professor at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock (UALR), for her report on behalf of the Study Group's

### **Subcommittee on Women Living in Poverty and Women-Owned Businesses/Women in Professional Positions.**

Dr. Estes said data was collected based on poverty levels in the state, income/gender income ratios, women-owned businesses, work and family issues. All statistics were taken from Census Bureau data and the American Community Survey. Data shows that 18.4% of Arkansans were living in poverty in 2010. The percentage of impoverished women was 20.2% compared to 16.6% for men. Arkansas ranks seventh highest in the U.S. for the number of citizens living in poverty. Single mothers and children are particularly vulnerable to poverty, with a 47.4% poverty rate for female-headed families with children compared to a national rate of 38.1%. A woman's economic insecurity is exacerbated by disparities between men's and women's wages. In 2011, the median income for women in Arkansas working full-time, per year was \$30,752 compared to \$37,488 for men.

Dr. Estes discussed women-owned businesses and said that a 2007 Census Bureau report showed that one-quarter of all privately-owned businesses are owned by women. In 2011, 2.3% of state contracts in excess of \$25,000 received by the Office of State Procurement went to women-owned businesses, which equaled .6% of all monies contracted by the state.

### **The Women Living in Poverty and Women-Owned Businesses/Women in Professional Positions and Pay Equity Subcommittee recommendations are:**

- ✓ improve women's access to higher education, job training, and job opportunities, especially in STEM fields
- ✓ improve paid leave provisions for men and women
- ✓ improve case management services for young mothers seeking assistance through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- ✓ transfer portions of eligible TANF funds to child care services to provide child care for mothers during job training and employment
- ✓ draft legislation requiring the Office of State Procurement and the procurement offices of state agencies to revise contract and purchasing policies by creating set-asides for women-owned businesses
- ✓ draft legislation to require firms doing business with the state to demonstrate their commitment to identify and combat pay inequality and job segregation by sex
- ✓ establish a **Pay Equity Task Force** with a focus on creating pay equity for public workers emphasizing the provisions in proposed federal legislation pertaining to paycheck fairness, and the provisions addressing training, negotiation skills, research, education and outreach for women
- ✓ request that the Legislative Women's Caucus push to reinstate the Arkansas Women's Commission
- ✓ establish a permanent **Advisory Council on Poverty Reduction and Economic Opportunity**
- ✓ establish a **Consumer Advisory Council** to identify policy changes that will improve awarding and distribution of public health benefits. Council

membership should include citizens who receive services and benefits from the Arkansas Department of Human Services, the Arkansas Department of Health, and the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Following Dr. Estes report, Representative Webb recommended that the monthly, minority-owned business report that is submitted to the Joint Budget Committee be revised to include data on women-owned businesses.

Representative Webb responded to a question by a committee member regarding the recommendation for paid family leave. She said that a group of professors at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville have studied the issue for a number of years and can provide model legislation.

Data from the Study Group's **Subcommittee on Pay Equity** was combined into the final report presented by Dr. Estes. The **Subcommittee on Domestic Violence/Mental Health/Teen Pregnancy** was unable to provide enough data for inclusion in the final report.

A motion to accept the Women's Economic Study Group Final report was made and seconded. The report was unanimously accepted by the Committees.

Representative Wagner announced that the next committee meeting will be held December 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Room B, MAC building. The Arkansas Municipal League and the Association of Arkansas Counties will present their 2013 legislative packets at the December meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

**Senate Interim City, County, & Local Affairs Committee  
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Meeting Jointly**

**October 18, 2012**

**Questions by Committee Members of Presenter Lynette Watts during the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

**1. What is the college graduation rate for women in Arkansas?**

Arkansas Graduation Rates by Gender for Students at 4-Year Universities

	Males	Females
2000	32.6%	41.1%
2001	34.1%	41.8%
2002	33.6%	42.3%
2003	32.9%	40.2%
2004	34.2%	40.5%
2005	33.8%	41.2%
2006	35.7%	42.4%

**2. What is the number of high school athletes – male and female?**

According to the National Federation of High Schools, in 2011-2012, 35,967 boys and 21,556 girls participated in sports in Arkansas.

**3. What are the remediation rates for high school athletes entering college?**

Data for Student Athlete Remediation Rates are found on a separate sheet .



## Remediation Rates for Student Athletes

Academic Year = 2010 (2009-2010 Fall Term Only), Students graduated from High School in Anytime.

No.	Inst. Type	Institution	First-Time Students	Test Takers	Any Remediation		Math		English		Reading	
					Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	1	ASUJ	71	71	34	47.9	22	31.0	16	22.5	21	29.6
2	1	ATU	59	59	15	25.4	10	16.9	11	18.6	7	11.9
3	1	HSU	75	75	36	48.0	19	25.3	27	36.0	22	29.3
4	1	SAUM	59	59	27	45.8	21	35.6	9	15.3	8	13.5
5	1	UAF	134	133	47	35.3	27	20.3	36	27.1	23	17.3
6	1	UAFS	36	36	15	41.7	9	25.0	8	22.2	7	19.4
7	1	UALR	31	31	8	25.8	5	16.1	5	16.1	6	19.4
8	1	UAM	48	48	24	50.0	18	37.5	16	33.3	13	27.1
9	1	UAPB	64	64	52	81.3	36	56.3	35	54.7	32	50.0
10	1	UCA	98	98	25	25.5	24	24.5	6	6.1	9	9.2
11	2	MSCC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	2	NAC	60	60	45	75.0	26	43.3	31	51.7	25	41.7
13	2	UACCM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4-Year Colleges			675	674	283	42.0	191	28.3	169	25.1	148	22.0
2-Year Colleges			60	60	45	75.0	26	43.3	31	51.7	25	41.7
All Public Colleges			735	734	328	44.7	217	29.6	200	27.2	173	23.6

Academic Year = 2011 (2010-2011 Fall Term Only), Students graduated from High School in Anytime.

No.	Inst. Type	Institution	First-Time Students	Test Takers	Any Remediation		Math		English		Reading	
					Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	1	ASUJ	93	93	37	39.8	21	22.6	23	24.7	22	23.7
2	1	ATU	80	80	41	51.3	28	35.0	24	30.0	17	21.3
3	1	HSU	87	87	32	36.8	16	18.4	19	21.8	22	25.3
4	1	SAUM	53	52	20	38.5	11	21.2	15	28.8	15	28.8
5	1	UAF	118	118	37	31.4	22	18.6	26	22.0	23	19.5
6	1	UAFS	25	25	7	28.0	4	16.0	6	24.0	3	12.0
7	1	UALR	35	35	15	42.9	8	22.9	12	34.3	8	22.9
8	1	UAM	68	66	37	56.1	25	37.9	28	42.4	27	40.9
9	1	UAPB	51	51	36	70.6	28	54.9	26	51.0	27	52.9
10	1	UCA	92	92	28	30.4	21	22.8	14	15.2	9	9.8
11	2	MSCC	23	23	23	100.0	20	87.0	18	78.3	20	87.0
12	2	NAC	54	54	35	64.8	23	42.6	27	50.0	25	46.3
13	2	UACCM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4-Year Colleges			702	699	290	41.5	184	26.3	193	27.6	173	24.7
2-Year Colleges			77	77	58	75.3	43	55.8	45	58.4	45	58.4
All Public Colleges			779	776	348	44.8	227	29.3	238	30.7	218	28.1

### NOTES:

1. First-Time Students - these are students that enrolled in college for the first-time (they have never before attended college). This includes students that are seeking an associate or bachelor's degree only. Certificate-seekers are not included.
2. Test Takers - this is a subset of First-Time Students that took the of ACT, SAT, Asset, or Compass exam.