



**Proponent Testimony on HB2371  
House Child Welfare and Foster Care Committee  
February 20, 2023**

Chair Concannon, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Ousley, and Members of the Committee, my name is Rachel Marsh, CEO of the Children's Alliance of Kansas. The Alliance is an association of 19 private, non-profit child welfare agencies that collectively provide a full array of services for children and families in child abuse and neglect prevention, family preservation, foster care, adoption, independent living, and parent, youth, and child skill-building, mental health, and substance use treatment. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2371 with a proposed amendment.

Strengthening the child welfare workforce has been a public policy challenge for decades, not only in Kansas but across the country. In our current economic environment, we are at a new crisis stage. What we see in our workforce are challenges that can be improved by focusing on high-quality supervision, manageable caseloads, secondary trauma supports, and improved technology.

HB2371 recognizes that the work of child welfare is some of the most difficult work we ask of human service professionals. HB2371 takes steps to support new and seasoned professionals by:

- 1) Ensuring proper training is provided before independently managing a caseload
- 2) Establishing a standard of caseload size in statute
- 3) Allowing for flexibility in caseload sizes due to temporary staffing or siblings cases

HB2371 does not include language on case management dyad teams currently used by case management providers (CMPs). Dyad teams are typically comprised of a case manager and family support worker working together to coordinate services and support. For this reason, we propose the following amendment to section b of HB2371:

b) Except when there are temporary staffing vacancies or there is a need to ensure the same case manager is assigned to a sibling group, the number of cases assigned to case managers for children in an out-of-home placement pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2201 et seq., and amendments thereto, shall not exceed 18 children for single case manager and 34 for a case manager/support worker team in an out-of-home placement.

We need to ensure our system supports reasonable caseloads so that we can provide quality services and avoid burnout among case teams. We ask that you support HB2371 with the proposed amendment to improve workforce retention and positive outcomes for children and families.

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**Members of the Children's Alliance of Kansas:**

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