

STATE OF KANSAS
SENATE

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CHASE BLASI
27TH DISTRICT

March 18, 2024

Dear Chairman Tyson and Members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation:

I respectfully ask for your support for Senate Bill 494 - enacting the adoption savings account act.

As some of you know, my wife McKenna and I have been blessed with two wonderful sons through adoption. We looked at foster care before deciding to seek private adoption primarily due to reintegration being the goal for children in custody of the state. We spoke to numerous couples with adoptive children who gave us great counsel. I would argue the greatest anxiety for adoptive parents is: the unknown. A couple conceiving a child has nine months to prepare both mentally and physically for the child to come into the home. Adoptive parents often have only hours or days to prepare. That was the case for both of our adoptions where we had only hours.

On top of wondering who the child will be and the status of their health and needs, a great concern is how much the adoption will cost. Each adoption is unique and therefore cannot be compared to the next.

We were told to prepare to spend \$25,000-30,000 for adoption. Kansas KVC Health Systems says prepare to spend \$20,000-50,000. Furthermore, Adoption Families Magazine cited that adoption in 2016-2017 could cost over \$43,000 on average.

Home study fee	\$2,433
Document preparation & authentication	\$595
Adoption agency application & program fees	\$18,826
Adoption consultant fees	\$2,637
Attorney fees	\$4,435
Advertising/networking	\$2,067
Birth family counseling	\$1,345
Birth mother expenses	\$3,411
Foster/interim care	\$282
Travel expenses	\$2,263
Post-placement expenses	\$2,076
All other expenses	\$2,869
AVERAGE TOTAL**	\$43,239

** Average represents total costs before claiming the Adoption Tax Credit.

Adoption is a beautiful gift for both the child(ren) and parents. However, the cost to adopt is usually the greatest challenge facing prospective parents. Senate Bill 494 will assist parents who wish to adopt a child into their loving home. Please pass Senate Bill 494.

Sincerely,

Senator Chase Blasi