

STATE OF KANSAS



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**March 7, 2012**

**Testimony for SB-262  
House Judiciary Committee  
Chairman-Representative Lance Kinzer**

**Good morning Mr. Chairman and Representatives of the Committee:**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB-262.**

**It is my pleasure to have introduced this legislation as a committee bill at the request of the Kansas Silver Haired legislature. I first became acquainted with the KSHL in 2004 while serving in the Kansas House of Representatives and was approached by members of KSHL regarding Grandparents Rights issues.**

**At that time, I co-sponsored a bill with former Rep. Jim Yonally which became law in 2007. This law is better known as the "Grandparents as Care Givers Act" helping Grandparents with additional financial assistance while raising their grandchildren.**

**During the 2011 legislative session, I was honored to support and vote for SB-23, along with many of you serving on this committee. This bill became law this past July, giving Grandparents interested party status in the courtroom and automatic notification of court room hearings regarding placement of their grandchildren.**

**Today I am asking for your support again for the KSHL, regarding the consideration for placement of grandchildren with a grandparent, upon the removal of children from the home of their biological parents.**

**The Kansas Silver Haired Legislature has advocated for Grandparent Rights and Children in need of Care issues for many years. Unfortunately, these issues continue to be at the forefront of discussion at almost every Town hall meeting I've attended in my district. I believe, SB-262 will not only address some of the concerns for members of the KSHL, but will indeed help other Grandparents throughout the State of Kansas. You will hear about these concerns from Mr. Wendell Turner, Speaker of the KSHL.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration of Senate Bill 262.**

**Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau  
Kansas State Senate – 29<sup>th</sup> District**