

KANSAS HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 262

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. I am Jim Snyder, Speaker Pro Tem for the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature. We favor passage of this bill.

Our main purpose is twofold. 1. To keep families together and 2. To provide a method by which the number of children in Kansas Foster Care is reduced for the benefit of both the child and the Kansas taxpayer.

Presently, as in the attached article from the Topeka Capital Journal, there are approximately 5200 Kansas children in foster care. Nobody can even guess how many are happy and content with their lot, but I would imagine it falls far below 50%. And, when you consider that it costs the State coffers more than \$20,000 per child per annum, it makes it even more imperative to ease the path of grandparents who pass the criteria and have the desire to bring their grandchildren into their homes on a permanent basis.

The Kansas Silver haired legislature requests your favorable action on SB 262.

Thank you.