



House Children and Seniors Committee:

March 14, 2017

**SB 126: Restrictions on Persons
Interacting with Child Care Facilities**

Written-Only Testimony by:

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Testimony of:

Sandra Kimmons, Director of Economic & Employment Services
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Testimony on:

SB 126, Restrictions on Persons Interacting with Child Care Facilities

Chair Alford, Vice Chair Gallagher, Ranking Member Ousley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 126.

The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) administers the Child Care and Development Block Grant in Kansas. The grant funds not only provide Child Care Subsidy benefits administered by DCF but also support the child care licensing program administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

SB 126 establishes the authority and requirement for KDHE to complete a background check of sexual offender registries and child abuse and neglect registries in other states. The safety of Kansas children is of utmost importance to DCF on a variety of levels. In order for parents to be employed, they must know that their child is in a safe place and being cared for appropriately. The ramifications of authorizing a person to be a child care provider when the person is on a sex offender or child abuse registry in any state is too great. A check of other states' registries will be minimal compared with the consequences of enrolling a sexual offender as a child care provider in Kansas.

In November 2014, Congress passed the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014. The Act mandates that states must complete comprehensive background checks on potential child care providers, child care staff members (including contract employees or self-employed individuals) and any individual living in a family care home. The background check must include, but is not limited to, a Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint check using Next Generation Identification; a search of the National Crime Information Center's National Sex Offender Registry; a search of the state criminal registry or repository, state sex offender registry or repository and the State child abuse and neglect registry and database where the staff member resides and resided during the previous five years. DCF and KDHE are partnering to ensure background check requirements will be met.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support for SB 126.