

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



SUSAN HUMPHRIES
99TH DISTRICT

TOPEKA OFFICE: STATE CAPITOL, 300 SW 10TH, TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612 • 785.296.7699
HOME ADDRESS: 8 SAGEBRUSH, WICHITA, KANSAS 67230
susan.humphries@house.ks.gov

HB 2587
Proponent Testimony
House Judiciary Committee
February 11, 2020

Dear Chairman Patton and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Two years ago the Kansas Judicial Council came before you with a comprehensive review of the Kansas Adoption Statutes, K.S.A. Chapter 59, Article 21. Those changes were passed out of committee, adopted, and signed by the Governor into law in 2018.

The Judicial Council committee addressed venue in order to discourage “venue shopping,” or the practice of choosing a judge that might be more sympathetic to the interests of the person filing the petition. Once adoption attorneys started abiding by the revised adoption statutes, it was discovered that the venue section did not adequately address venue in state (DCF) adoptions.

As it stands now, venue is proper in the county where the petitioner (adoptive parent) resides, in the county where the child resided prior to agency custody, or the county where the principal place of business of the agency is located. But, those three counties do not take into consideration several circumstances when the petitioners are adopting out of the foster care system.

HB 2587 would remedy this omission, and encourage attorneys to continue offering their services in DCF adoptions. I ask you to pass HB 2587 favorably out for passage. Thank you for this opportunity, and I will be happy to answer questions.

Sincerely,
Susan Humphries