



**Proponent Testimony on SB120 – Written Only  
Children and Seniors Committee  
March 17, 2021**

Chair Concannon and Members of the Committee, my name is Rachel Marsh, CEO of the Children's Alliance of Kansas. The Alliance is an association of 18 private, non-profit child welfare agencies that collectively provide a full array of services for children and families in child abuse and neglect prevention, family preservation, foster care, adoption, independent living, and parent, youth, and child skill-building, mental health, and substance use treatment.

The Alliance supports a standing oversight committee on child welfare systems issues, as we previously testified on your bill, HB2115. We appreciate the Senate's consideration of this issue in SB120. To create the most effective joint committee, we believe the following responsibilities, set out by HB2115, should be included as part of oversight responsibilities:

- data on child maltreatment and demographic trends impacting the child welfare system;
- the duties, responsibilities and contributions of the Kansas department for children and families, the Kansas department for aging and disability services, the department of health and environment, the department of corrections, law enforcement and the judicial branch, that comprise and impact the child welfare system;
- the programs, services and benefits offered directly or through grants or contracts by the Kansas department for children and families, the Kansas department for aging and disability services, the department of health and environment and the judicial branch that impact children and families at risk of becoming involved or who are involved in the child welfare system, including:
  - child maltreatment prevention;
  - investigations of child maltreatment;
  - in-home family services, including services offered through federal prevention and family preservation funding;
  - foster care, reintegration and adoption services
- trends, performance outcomes, activities and improvement plans related to federal child and family service reviews;
- reports from child welfare-related work and task groups
- review of ongoing workforce issues in child welfare
- review of data technology systems at DCF
- opportunities to strengthen evidence-based interventions and services for children and families

We believe SB120 would benefit from amendments aligning it with these specific considerations, already passed by this Committee and the full House in HB2115, that reflect a broad understanding of the child welfare system as encompassing child abuse prevention, maltreatment investigations, services to safely reduce the need for foster care, and foster care and adoption – across multiple silos, using a data-driven focus.

Thank you again for your support of a strong child welfare system in Kansas.

Members of the Children’s Alliance of Kansas:

CALM, Emporia  
Cornerstones of Care, Overland Park  
DCCCA, Lawrence  
Eckerd, Wichita  
EmberHope, Wichita  
Florence Crittenton, Topeka  
FosterAdopt Connect, Olathe  
Great Circle, Lawrence  
Kansas Children’s Service League, Topeka  
KVC Kansas, Olathe  
KidsTLC, Olathe  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Mayetta  
Restoration Family Services, Wichita  
Saint Francis Ministries, Salina  
TFI Family Services, Topeka  
The Children’s Shelter, Lawrence  
The Villages, Topeka  
Wichita Children’s Home, Wichita