

United Way

SUCCESS BY 6™

Helping all children succeed for life.

1900 Delaware Street • Lawrence, KS 66046
Tel: 785.842.8719 • Fax: 785.842.1412
docofamily2family@gmail.com • www.dcsb6.org



January 24, 2022

House Children and Seniors Committee
Chairwoman Concannon and the Committee

Thank you for allowing this bill to have a hearing. I am a proponent of HB 2525 I work as the Collaborative Projects Coordinator for Success By 6 Coalition of Douglas County. The mission of Success By 6 is to ensure that all Douglas County families of children under 6 have what they need to successfully parent their young children, thereby fostering positive parent-child relationship and preparing children of success in school and in life.

HB 2525 Addresses a problem that SB6 and our partners encounter daily. Namely, families struggle to meet their basic needs. Feeding America projected an overall food insecurity in Douglas County in 2020 at 16.1%. Children in our community are hit hardest by hunger and food insecurity. SB6 and our implementing partners constantly encounter families that are pregnant or parenting young children stuck between a rock and a hard place to get to work and to put food on the table. These good hard working neighbors make significant contribution to the Kansas tax revenues and to our local economy. Families sometimes manage to continue working by going hungry in order to keep their children safe in childcare. Very often families wind up homeless due to their inability to pay for rent. Utilities get shut off. Medications are skipped. None of these sacrifices are good for the Kansas economy.

SB6 supports HB 2525 Because the families we serve do their best to nurture their infants, toddlers and preschoolers in while earning too little to pay their bills. These families need and deserve our state to honor them and their contributions.

SB6 urges you to remember that our future depends on all our kids. Strengthening Families results in optimal child outcomes. SB6 is available to answer any questions or to offer further data and information.

Rich Minder, Collaborative Projects Coordinator, 785-842-8719, rich@dcsb6.org.

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