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**Testimony to the House Children and Seniors Committee  
In Support of HB2582**

February 9, 2022

Chair Concannon and Committee Members:

This bill is the result of the Joint Committee on Child Welfare recommendation resulting from our testimony on October 5, 2021. (See that [testimony at this link](#).) The committee recommended: “DCF should work with the representative of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Sheriffs Association, and Kansas Peace Officers Association, and other law enforcement agencies as needed, and seek the assistance of the Office of Revisor of Statutes to draft statute clarifying the interpretation of statutory language for sharing information with local law enforcement. If a resolution is not achieved by the start of the 2022 Legislative Session, it is recommended the Judicial Council be consulted to assist in coming to a resolution.” We are pleased to report that our associations were able to work with DCF as directed and believe the proposed bill will address the information exchange gap we reported to the Joint Committee.

Even with the efforts to improve communications with our investigators DCF has made since our testimony, our investigators continue to receive reports from DCF with key information redacted. The changes proposed in this bill are a very necessary and a critical step to assure this gap in information exchange is fixed and clearly established in statute.

The bulk of the new language is found on page 6 lines 2-10. All of the listed information is critical for the investigators to have if we are to maximize our ability to identify the facts in each case and appropriately seek charges necessary to protect the child. It is absolutely critical we don't miss information to support appropriate actions related to placement of the child and to present all facts necessary to prosecute anyone perpetrating these crimes against the child. It is also critical in identifying information that may clear a person suspected of criminal activity and avoid wrongful conviction when no crime has been committed.

We do have one amendment we would like to offer. That would be to amend the last sentence of subsection (e) starting on page 6, line7, by adding “name and contact information of persons alleging the abuse or neglect and DCF employees or contract employees investigating the allegations.”

*Such records shall include, but not be limited to, any information regarding such report or investigation and records of past reports or investigations concerning such child and such child's siblings, ~~and~~ the perpetrator or alleged perpetrator, **name and contact information of persons alleging the abuse or neglect, and DCF case workers, investigators or contractor employees investigating the allegations.***

We encourage the committee to adopt the above amendment and move the bill forward favorably.

Ed Klumpp  
Legislative Liaison