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Testimony in Support of HB 2582
Provided by Greg Benefiel, McPherson County Attorney,
On behalf of Kansas and County District Attorneys Association

Chair Concannon and members of the House Committee on Children and Seniors, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2582 which would require the Department for Children and Families (DCF) to disclose agency records of a child alleged or adjudicated to be a child in need of care.

I am writing in support of HB 2582 on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association and myself as McPherson County Attorney. Communication between all of parties protecting our children is a critical factor to the success of that endeavor, and this bill clarifies and defines the records DCF will disclose to law enforcement.

HB 2582 should be adopted. Adopting HB 2582 details the information that is to be shared with an investigating law enforcement agency. Further, the amendment proposed by law enforcement should be adopted as it further clarifies what is to be shared.

This bill addresses a narrow situation of sharing information during a child in need of care investigation. While some may believe the statute already permits it, DCF has not routinely interpreted it as such so the clarity afforded by the proposed bill and proposed amendment achieves what is needed in these investigations.

Again, KCDA and I support HB 2582 and urge you to adopt it along with the proposed amendment. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Gregory T. Benefiel
County Attorney