



February 16, 2022

Attention:
Kansas House of Representatives
Children and Seniors Committee

RE: House Bill 2700

I am writing this letter regarding House Bill 2700. I am in support of this bill and believe that it would be in the best interest of many Kansas foster children. I am a licensed clinical social worker LSCSW in private practice in Derby, Kansas. I work with many children that are in foster care and have experienced many traumas. I have testified in court for cases related to attachment. In my experience, the foster care system does not address the child's attachment when making decisions regarding adoption of these children. I have testified in a recent case where a 3-year-old child was placed in a foster home as an infant, only to be removed from this home at age 3 ½, to be placed with siblings. Some involved in the case, believed that this child was so young, and the child would not remember the foster parents, whom were an adoptive resource. This was a complicated case, but in the end, it was my testimony that it was more important to consider the child's attachment to the only family that they had known. The reason that attachment is important is because any break in a child's attachment can have lasting lifelong effects that can be detrimental to future relationships. The foster care system is very overloaded with children. I also believe that this system needs to make some changes in how attachment is viewed.

Thank you for considering this bill and the importance of the needs of our Kansas foster children.

Thank you,

Richelle Stroup LSCSW
Counseling Avenues
316-206-3111
330 E. Madison suite 207
Derby, KS 67037