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Kansas is one of the few states left who has not passed any legislation to prevent or limit the shackling of children.

Shackling children is inhumane and is extremely traumatizing to children. Shackling young people has lasting negative impacts on a child's development and self-esteem.

The youngest a child can be incarcerated in the state of Kansas is ten years old so children as young as ten are being shackled with arm cuffs, leg irons/ cuffs and belly chains.

Youth are shackled before they are transported to court hearings and remain shackled for the transportation to the hearing, the waiting period in their cell, the time they meet with their attorney before the hearing, during the hearing, waiting time in their cell again, and then during the transport time back to the detention facility.

This is hours where children are chained up.

The same process occurs for when children are transported to medical appointments outside of the facility they are housed.

Shackling children in Kansas has become so natural that people don't even question it, this should not be someone's response to a child being shackled.

As a young person who has experienced the Juvenile Justice system, I can say that myself and so many of my peers have experienced the trauma of being shackled for court hearings and for doctor appointments and I still remember what it felt like to be cuffed and chained up by staff members and to have cuts on my ankles and wrists from sitting for hours with the metal cuffs pushing into my skin.

Although it might not seem to have much of an impact to people who are witnessing this act, changing this process and this norm of harming young people will make a significant impact on the young people, ON THE CHILDREN, who come in contact with our system in Kansas.

Even beyond what is outlined in this bill I will go a step further and say children should Never be shackled. Limiting shackling for court hearings will still leave the same impacts and traumatic effects on the young person.

The only people who this takes responsibility and traumatic impact away from are the people in the court room such as the DA and Judge who will never have to see the child shackled while in their presence (aka the courtroom).

Respectfully Submitted (January 24, 2022)