



**Testimony on SB316**, concerning zoning and planning; relating to the regulation of group homes in an area zoned for single family dwellings; authorizing regulations to establish a minimum distance between such group homes; amending K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 12-736 and repealing the existing section.

### **Senate Local Government Committee**

**February 1, 2022**

Good morning, Chairperson McGinn and other Local Government members. My name is Nickaila Sandate, CEO at EmberHope Youthville in Newton Kansas. For over 90 years EmberHope Youthville, a child welfare non-profit agency, has been committed to diligently work to lead healthy change for children and families by offering innovative trauma-sensitive programs rooted in faith.

We present today in opposition to SB 316. Our residential treatment facilities operate on a large campus in Newton, Kansas. This bill creates a risk of impeding our ability to enhance our services and add new residential treatment centers to our campus.

EmberHope Youthville's residential program is rooted in faith and committed to caring for children in innovative ways that encourage their mental, physical, and creative growth through therapeutic forms of expression. Our Newton residential campus serves girls and young women ages 10-18, inspiring positive change through help with life skills, coping skills, social skills, problem-solving, and the ability to develop and maintain healthy relationships. Our mission is to use trauma-informed services to help these children safely return to their families and communities.

We appreciate your time today and urge you not to work this bill.



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