



**Proponent Testimony on SB83 – Written Only
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
February 2, 2021**

Chairman Hilderbrand and Members of the Committee, my name is Rachel Marsh, CEO of the Children's Alliance of Kansas. The Alliance is an association of 18 private, non-profit child welfare agencies that collectively provide a full array of services for children and families in child abuse and neglect prevention, family preservation, foster care, adoption, independent living, and parent, youth, and child skill-building, mental health, and substance use treatment. One of the purposes of the Alliance is to advocate for public policy that strengthens child and family well-being in Kansas. We thank this Committee for considering making exceptions to State Child Death Review Board confidentiality to support improved outcomes for children at the local level.

Children's Alliance members serve the most vulnerable residents of Kansas – child victims of abuse and neglect. In the most tragic circumstances, we are called to assist in coordinating care, safety, protection, and treatment for children or the siblings of children who have been subjected to severe physical abuse or even child torture. The State Child Death Review Board plays an important role in reviewing and providing an annual report on causes of child death in Kansas. We support expanding the Board's ability to share information, when necessary, to improve community-level review of and response to child fatalities from abuse or neglect. By sharing critical information with law enforcement and prosecutors, Kansas communities may learn key information that will result in improved local practices that could prevent future tragedies. We encourage your support of SB83 as an important step to strengthen local response to child fatalities from child abuse and neglect.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of SB83.

Members of the Children's Alliance of Kansas:

CALM, Emporia
Cornerstones of Care, Overland Park
DCCCA, Lawrence
Eckerd, Wichita
EmberHope, Wichita
Florence Crittenton, Topeka
FosterAdopt Connect, Olathe
Great Circle, Lawrence
Kansas Children's Service League, Topeka

KVC Kansas, Olathe
KidsTLC, Olathe
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Mayetta
Restoration Family Services, Wichita
Saint Francis Ministries, Salina
TFI Family Services, Topeka
The Children's Shelter, Lawrence
The Villages, Topeka
Wichita Children's Home, Wichita