



Testimony to the House Committee on Children and Seniors in opposition to House Bill 2233

February 21, 2013

Chair O'Brien and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to House Bill 2233 on behalf of the Kansas Children's Service League. The mission of the Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) is "to protect and promote the well-being of children." We are the Kansas chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA).

One of the most important things we can do as parents and as a society is protect and nurture our children. Our child welfare statutes have been written to ensure that when children's safety or wellbeing is in doubt, we take appropriate and thoughtful actions to keep them safe or otherwise ensure their wellbeing. Since children are unable to adequately care for or represent themselves, the actions others take on their behalf must always place the child's safety and best interest first.

HB 2233 would limit the ability of child advocacy centers, guardians ad litem, attorneys, judges, and others to fully apply their professional skills, experience, and knowledge to determine the most appropriate and thoughtful course of action for a child by adding restrictions which may further the parents' interest, but may ultimately be detrimental to the child.

We urge the Committee not to approve HB 2233. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. If you have questions or need further information please let me know.

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Our Mission: To Protect and Promote the Well-Being of Children