

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE, LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Hutton at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, March 04, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Reed Holwegner, Legislative Research Department
Linda Herrick, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Jason Thompson, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Chuck Reimer, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jaime Rogers, Kansas Department for Children and Families
Char Goolsby, Individual, Salina
Valerie Cahill, Individual, Kansas City
Lacey Schmidt, Individual, Salina
Brittany Drown, Individual, Salina
Julie Morrison, Individual, Salina
Christie Appelhanz, Vice President of Public Affairs, Kansas Action for Children
Rebekah Gaston, Childhood Hunger Initiative Director, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: HB2381 — Kansas department for children and families; eligibility requirements for public assistance.

Chairperson Hutton opened the hearing on the bill. Chuck Reimer gave an explanation of the bill ([Attachment 1](#)).

Jaime Rogers testified ([Attachment 2](#)) in support of the bill. She explained that by providing needed support and assistance to clients to become employed, the Department of Children and Families is bridging the gap between poverty and full-time employment. She stood for questions.

Charilyn Goolsby testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 3](#)). As a trainer at Strategic Training Solutions and as a DCF provider, she helps prepare Kansans for work by providing tools and guidance. Work programs transition people from public assistance to public contribution.

Valerie Cahill testified ([Attachment 4](#)) in support of the bill by explaining she was a recipient of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and expressed appreciation for the Work Training Program.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Lacey Schmidt testified ([Attachment 5](#)) in support of the bill expressing appreciation for the Partners 4 Success class that helped her get a good job with good benefits so she could provide for her family.

Brittany Drown testified ([Attachment 6](#)) and Julie Morrison testified ([Attachment 7](#)) in support of the bill and both commented on the Partners 4 Success class which helped them secure jobs.

Proponent written only testimony was provided by the Kansas Department of Commerce ([Attachment 8](#)) and Paul Kiecker, U.S. Department of Agriculture ([Attachment 9](#)).

Christie Applehantz provided opponent testimony ([Attachment 10](#)) emphasizing the program provides food and benefits for poor Kansas children--TANF Troubling Trends in Kansas (a([Attachment 11](#)).

Rebekah Gaston provided opponent testimony ([Attachment 12](#)) noting the bill will only serve to increase food security in the state.

Opponent written only testimony was provided by:

Karen Siebert of Harvesters ([Attachment 13](#))

Karen Wulfschle, United Community Services of Johnson County ([Attachment 14](#))

Ashley Jones-Wisner, Kshealtykids ([Attachment 15](#)) Juan Gonzales, Noel Emergency Lodge, Hutchinson ([Attachment 16](#))

Timothy Ryan Smith, M.D., University of Kansas Pediatrics ([Attachment 17](#))

Gary Brunk, Kansas Association of Community Action Plans ([Attachment 18](#))

Jennifer Roth, Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers ([Attachment 19](#))

Jim Kanady, New Beginnings, Inc. ([Attachment 20](#))

Neutral written only testimony ([Attachment 21](#)) was provided by Michael Schuttlhoffel, Kansas Catholic Conference.

Questions were addressed related to eligibility, support from multiple programs, length of time on programs, annual caseload and cost, use of EBT cards, how other states handle cards, statistics about card use, use of cards at ATM, success rate of job placement, length of time on the job, kinds of businesses to which applicants are referred, and persons with one felony not eligible.

The fiscal note indicates the bill would have no fiscal effect on state revenues or expenditures.

After questions, the hearing on this bill was closed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.