

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Brunk at 8:50am on Friday, March 20, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Joseph Scapa – Excused

Committee staff present:

Natalie Nelson, Legislative Research Department

Joanna Wochner, Legislative Research Department

Stephen Bainum, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Jason Long, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Ronald W. Nelson, Kansas Judicial Council

Tricia Thomas, Child Support Services,

Chris Brown

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: SB105 — Enacting updates to the uniform interstate family support act (UIFSA 2008).

Chairman Brunk called the meeting to order at 8:50 am and called for any bill introductions.

Representative Pete DeGraaf introduced a bill to prohibit the decapitation of unborn children. It was received without exception.

Chairman Brunk called upon the Committee to work **SB105**. Jason Long, Revisor of Statutes, gave a briefing on the bill. ([Attachment 1](#))

Written testimony as a proponent of **SB105** was presented by:

Ronald W. Nelson who said that the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act was signed by the President of the United States in 2014. This act requires states to adopt the 2008 Uniform Interstate Family Support Act verbatim during the 2015 legislative session. Timely passage of this legislation is a condition of continued eligibility for receipt for federal funds for state child support programs. In addition to ensuring eligibility for federal funds, adoption of **SB105** will improve the enforcement of American child support orders abroad and will increase financial support of American children with parents outside of the country. Mr. Nelson answered questions from the Committee. ([Attachment 2](#))

Trisha Thomas said that **SB105** would amend and update the Kansas version of UIFSA 1996 to UIFSA 2008. In July 2008, the Uniform Law Commission amended UIFSA to incorporate changes required by the Hague Convention. The bulk of the 2008 amendments are housed in a new section of UIFSA: Section 7. The new section provides guidelines and procedures for the registration, recognition, enforcement and modification of foreign support orders from countries that are parties to the

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Convention. In September 2014, Congress passed federal implementing legislation for the Convention. Importantly, the new law (Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act) requires that the 2008 UIFSA amendments be enacted in every jurisdiction as a condition for continued receipt of federal funds supporting state child support programs within the next legislative period. There were no questions from the Committee. ([Attachment 3](#))

Written testimony as an opponent of **SB105** was submitted by: Chris Brown who said that not one legislator has ever voted on the Child Support Guidelines since 1987. The legislature has never vetted the Guidelines publicly, yet they are imposed against your constituents without reproach. The public is all but shut out of the process. We need to change statutes to protect taxpayers and provide state accountability, not federal handouts. Mr Brown answered questions from the Committee. ([Attachment 4](#))

Written Only testimony as a proponent of **SB105** was submitted by: Joseph N. Molina, Kansas Bar Association. ([Attachment 5](#))

Chairman Brunk closed the hearing and asked if the Committee had any objection to working the bill. There were no objections.

Representative John Wilson made a motion to pass **SB105** out favorably for passage, seconded by Representative Janice Pauls. Discussion ensued among the Committee members.

Chairman Brunk called for the vote on **SB105**. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am.