



## Committee on Judiciary

February 23, 2015

*Testimony on:*

**SB 195**

Presented by:

Trisha Thomas

Director of Child Support Services

Kansas Department for Children and Families

**Testimony of:**

Trisha Thomas, Director of Child Support Services  
Kansas Department for Children and Families  
Topeka, Kansas

**Testimony on:**

SB 195, child support, reporting of arrearages to consumer credit reporting agencies, distribution of support payments

**Chairman King, Vice-Chair Smith, Ranking Member Haley, and Members of the Committee:**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 195.

SB 195 would amend K.S.A. 23-3121 regarding the procedures and circumstances under which Child Support Services (CSS) provides information to credit reporting agencies. Currently, CSS is required by statute to adopt procedures to report information concerning any child support arrearage of \$1,000 or more to consumer reporting agencies, unless the Secretary determines that such reporting would not be appropriate in a particular case. In addition, CSS may also report arrearages of under \$1,000 if appropriate in a particular case. SB 195 would remove these particular dollar amounts from statute, and provide that CSS will provide information to credit reporting agencies according to rules and regulations as adopted by the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Children and Families (DCF). This additional flexibility will allow CSS to report information to credit reporting agencies in a manner that is more consistent with best practices in the field of child support collection, as set forth in rules and regulations.

In addition, SB 195 would amend K.S.A. 23-3123 by changing the effective date for a provision, requiring CSS to collect and disburse all support payments through a central unit in accordance with the provisions of Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act. The proposed amendment would change the effective date of this provision from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2020. Likewise, rules and regulations as adopted by the Secretary of DCF would go into effect on July 1, 2020. This additional time is needed for CSS to update our computer systems to comply with federal requirements, and the delay will not impact CSS operations or the continued receipt of federal funding.

There are no costs to DCF for the credit reporting change or to delay the date for the distribution change.

CSS stands in strong support of SB 195. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this important bill, I will stand for any questions at the appropriate time.