



Senate Judiciary Committee  
March 18, 2015

*Testimony on:*  
**SB 204**

Written Testimony By:

Phyllis Gilmore

Secretary

Kansas Department for Children and Families

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**Testimony of:**

Phyllis Gilmore, Secretary  
Kansas Department for Children and Families  
Topeka, Kansas

**Testimony on:**

SB 204

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

SB 204 proposes an amendment to K.S.A. 38-2255(d)(3), by adding language to specifically require that a person granted visitation rights with a child be granted his/her total amount of visitation time. It further requires that time missed due to being tardy/late will not be deducted from total time granted, and reasonable accommodation shall be made to extend the scheduled visitation or add such time to another scheduled visitation.

If 38-2255(d)(3) is amended, DCF would propose the revision regarding lateness for visitation allow for more flexibility than the proposed language in the bill. DCF would suggest replacement of the last sentence with the following: "If a person is late for a scheduled visitation for good cause, reasonable accommodations should be made to extend the scheduled visitation or to add time to another scheduled visitation." Social workers have complex schedules they balance to serve children and families who have contact with our agency. Resources are limited to strictly comply with new mandated language, in the event numerous persons granted visitation are consistently late or fail to appear for visitation with a child. Current practice involves making such accommodations, when feasible, and in the best interests of the children.

DCF is neutral with respect to SB 204. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony to the Committee.