



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary**  
**Senate Bill 204**  
March 18, 2015

Chair King and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on SB 204. The Kansas Children's Service League is neutral on this bill.

The Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) is a statewide private non-profit 501(c)3 operating in Kansas since 1893. Our mission is to protect and promote the well-being of children. We reach nearly 40,000 Kansas children and their families each year through three key strategies: Preventing Child Abuse, Strengthening Families; and Empowering Parents and Youth. We are the Kansas Chapter for Prevent Child Abuse America. As a licensed child placing agency, we support approximately 80 licensed foster homes that accept placements for children through referrals by the Department for Children and Family services' (DCF) Child Welfare Community Based Service Partners. At any one time, we are caring for approximately 90 to 100 children in our homes.

KCSL supports the intent of this legislation understanding that the most successful path to reintegration of children who have been removed from their biological parents requires intensive visitation opportunity. We also understand that the challenges many parents face as they begin to change their lives and priorities requires the management of multiple and competing priorities with often few and limited resources available to support them. When a visit with a child is unavoidably delayed or missed due to circumstances beyond the parents' reasonable control or for reasons that are identified as priorities on their reintegration plan, we would be in full agreement with this proposed language.

However, we understand that DCF in partnership with their contractors could implement such policy change or clarification without need for statutory amendment and believe that is a reasonable approach.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony on SB 204.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dona Booe".

Dona Booe  
President/CEO  
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***Our Mission: To Protect and Promote the Well-Being of Children***