



**Kansas Association of
Chiefs of Police**

PO Box 2163
Hutchinson, KS 67504
(620) 242-6565



**Kansas Sheriffs
Association**

PO Box 1122
Pittsburg, KS 66762
(620) 687-1206



**Kansas Peace Officers
Association**

PO Box 2592
Wichita, KS 67201
(316) 722-8433

**Testimony to the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
In Support of HB2034
March 8, 2023**

Chair Gossage and Committee Members,

Our associations support HB2034 creating standards for additional physical examinations of child abuse and neglect victims. These cases must be investigated from all angles. We must do all we can to prepare accurate facts to present to the prosecutor, and ultimately to a court, in cases where abuse or neglect is alleged. We must minimize the chances of an injustice to the victim and the victim's family if a case of abuse or neglect is misclassified as resulting from some innocent event. Likewise, the damage that can be done to a family, including the child, can be immense if a case is improperly classified as abuse or neglect when it is not. The importance of these two factors by themselves justify what is proposed in this bill.

We appreciate the bill clearly addresses the source of state funding to cover these costs in Section 1, subsections (d) and (e) on page 2, lines 16-39. Mandated costs such as those associated with these examinations can be a burden on our cities and counties if assessed to them, especially those in rural areas. This provision was important in our decision to support this bill.

We support the provisions affecting law enforcement investigations of child abuse or neglect found on page 10, lines 22 through 31. The new provisions in subsection (i)(1) on page 10, lines 22-27, will require DOC or law enforcement to refer a child aged 5 or under for the CARE evaluation, as defined on page 4, lines 36-41. The provisions in Subsection (i)(2) on page 10, lines 28-31, allow a referral of a child over the age of 5 for the CARE evaluation. We believe both subsections are appropriately applied in the bill to provide the correct cases to be referred for the CARE evaluation.

We encourage you to recommend the bill favorably.

Ed Klumpp
Legislative Liaison
(785)640-1102