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Adrienne Olejnik
Vice President, Kansas Action for Children
Written Testimony on the DCF Budget
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Chairman Billinger and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on several key items in the budget for the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

We understand the Legislature's desire to minimize budget enhancements and instead identify cuts in the state budget this year. Yet, we believe the best investments of state resources are those made on behalf of children and families. For these reasons, we ask that you prioritize the needs of the youngest Kansans during your budget deliberations, even when it requires additional funding.

The DCF budget includes several important investments that we strongly support.

Summer EBT Program

We ask you to continue to support the state's portion of administrative costs to maintain Kansas' participation in the federal Summer EBT program, which is projected to help 266,000 Kansas children have enough food to eat during the summer break.

A reappropriation of \$1.8 million SGF for FY 2025 and \$925,000 SGF for FY 2026 have been included in the House version of the budget. These funding amounts represent Kansas' requirement of 50% of the administrative costs for the program to draw down potentially \$32 million in direct benefits to Kansas families to purchase groceries for their children over the summer months.

At \$40/child for each of three summer months, this benefit helps low-income children have enough to eat while also supporting grocery stores across the state. **We ask the Senate Committee on Ways and Means to maintain this funding in the budget.**

Other Priorities

The DCF budget includes other critical programs that support Kansas children and families like the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), child care subsidies, foster care services, family preservation, and several more. For our state's future to be bright, we ask you to refrain from cutting investments that support families. Even short-term funding decreases will create long-term, detrimental effects for Kansas children.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these priorities with you. Feel free to reach me if you have any questions at adrienne@kac.org

About Kansas Action for Children

KAC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization working to make Kansas a place where every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy and thrive. KAC does not receive any funding from local, state, or federal government sources; however, we have a keen interest in the state budget because of its impact on children and families.