

February 10, 2025

The Honorable Cyndi Howerton, Chairperson
House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 152-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Howerton:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2207 by House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2207 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2207 would revise the Kansas Code for Care of Children by permitting a parent access to records when the parent's child is the subject of an investigation of abuse or neglect or a child in need of care proceeding. The bill would authorize victims of childhood abuse or neglect to access records related to substantiated reports or investigations of abuse or neglect.

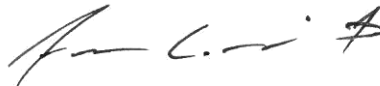
The Kansas Department of Corrections and the Office of the Child Advocate indicate enactment of HB 2207 would have no fiscal effect on either agency.

The Department for Children and Families (DCF) indicates that enactment of HB 2207 would have a fiscal effect on expenditures. DCF believes that the requirements in HB 2207 would create an administrative burden to the agency, specifically the requirements which would only allow a three-day deadline to have all records and information provided to the requestor. DCF states that 1.00 legal assistant position would be needed to review, redact, and provide files in the appropriate amount of time for all requests statewide. The estimate for salary, fringe benefits, and other operating expenses would be a total of \$76,920, including \$53,729 from the State General Fund for, FY 2026. These expenditures would continue and be similar in the out-years.

The Office of Judicial Administration indicates that enactment of HB 2207 could have a fiscal effect on expenditures of the Judicial Branch. The bill's provisions would require courts to provide access to records for child in need of care proceedings within three days of the request.

Nevertheless, until the courts have had an opportunity to operate under the provisions of HB 2207, an accurate estimate of the fiscal effect on expenditures by the Judicial Branch cannot be given. Enactment of HB 2207 would not have a fiscal effect on revenues to the Judicial Branch or the State General Fund. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2207 is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct flourish at the end.

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Kim Holter, Department for Children & Families
Jennifer King, Department of Corrections
Trisha Morrow, Judiciary
Jay Hall, Kansas Association of Counties
Kerrie Lonard, Office of the Child Advocate