

TESTIMONY OF
JIM SNYDER
KANSAS COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
FEB. 2, 2012
HB 2537

Mr. Chairman, member of the Committee. I am Jim Snyder, Speaker Pro Tem for the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature. We are proponents of this bill.

I have attached two items. An article from the Topeka Capital Journal showing that 5200 Kansas children are in foster care. The other is testimony from one of our members from Wichita who will be presenting this next week to a Senate Committee. Both show a real need for child care in Kansas and, although these do not directly address this bill, they do show a need for this action.

The Silverhaired Legislature is involved because we found that grandparents wishing to care for their grandchildren (and in many cases already doing so) had innumerable blocks to do so. Our organization has been successful in presenting this case to the legislature, and recent assistance by you has removed a few obstacles. However, more is being done.

Presently, besides this bill, Substitute for SB 81 passed the Senate and is in the House Judiciary Committee.....also SB 262 is in the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee and a hearing—at which we will be present—is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 7.

We urge quick favorable action on this bill by your Committee and we hope you members will help further along other legislation which will not only help keep the family together, but will lower foster care recipients—a situation which is very expensive to Kansas taxpayers.

Thank you.