

STATE OF KANSAS

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TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

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MEMBER: BUSINESS AND LABOR
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JOINT COMMITTEES: ARTS AND CULTURAL
RESOURCES
CHILDREN'S ISSUES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Senate Bill 52

Hearing held on February 7, 2011

9:30 am

Senate Judiciary Committee
Chairman-Senator Tim Owens
Ranking Member-Senator David Haley
Honorable Members of the Committee

Good Morning,

I am testifying in support of SB-52 on behalf of the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature. In 2005, I introduced a bill that became law July 1, 2006, known as the "Grandparents As Caregivers Act", which financially assisted grandparents raising grandchildren.

SB-52 is another attempt to assist grandparents, to keep children out of foster care, and to keep families together. Over the past couple of years, I have heard from grandparents who are not informed about court hearings regarding the placement of their grandchildren. SB-52 would require the courts to consider grandparents as interested parties to a child in need of care proceeding. The bill would also require grandparents to receive notification of court hearings regarding their grandchildren.

Once again, this is an attempt to keep children out of foster care and keep families together.

I strongly urge your support for SB-52.

Thank You,

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau

Senate Judiciary

2-7-11

Attachment 5