

Rob Siedlecki, Acting Secretary
Department of Social And Rehabilitation
Services

**Senate Committee on Judiciary
March 8, 2011**

Testimony in Support of SB 81

**Children and Family Services
Tanya Keys, Director**

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Chairman Owens and members of the committee, I am Tanya Keys, Director of Children and Family Services with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 81.

Adoption provides a stable and permanent placement to allow a child to thrive. A relative adoption allows continuity of family relationships and connections. Current SRS practice for selection of an adoptive resource provides preference be given to relatives as a resource because the child benefits when familial connections can be maintained. Direct placement by the court, with a relative to adopt and if no viable relative exists, granting custody for the purposes of adoption to a person with whom the child has close emotional ties would benefit children.

SRS supports SB 81 and the improvements it provides to families involved in the child welfare system.