



Kansas Children's Service League

Giving Kids Our Best. For Over 100 Years.

## Testimony to the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee on Senate Bill 360

February 8, 2012

Chairperson Owens and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 360. The mission of the Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) is "to protect and promote the well-being of children." We are the Kansas chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America. In this role, we have worked with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and other state partners including the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Attorney General's office to facilitate research and establish evidence-based approaches to preventing child abuse and neglect.

We strongly support the State Child Death Review Board's goals:

- **To describe** trends and patterns of child deaths, identifying risk factors in the population;
- **To improve** inter-agency communication so recommendations can be made regarding recording of actual cause of death, investigation of suspicious deaths, and system responses to child deaths;
- **To develop** prevention strategies including community education and mobilization, professional training, and changes in legislation, public policy and/or agency practices.

We believe that the language in SB 360 allowing the disclosure of information and records for research and public health purposes will facilitate research and result in long-term improvements in our ability to target appropriate services and resources to reduce child fatalities in Kansas.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony related to the impact of SB 360. We would be happy to provide additional details as requested.

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