



State of Kansas

Office of Judicial Administration

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March 15, 2016

House Judiciary
Neutral Testimony on SB 410

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Office of Judicial Administration

Chairman Barker and committee members thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony for SB 410. My name is Dawn M. Rouse and I am the Court Improvement Specialist for the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA). As the Court Improvement Specialist I serve as the OJA's liaison to the Department for Children and Families (DCF). In my role I assist with federal reviews, serve on child welfare committees, and staff the Supreme Court Task Force on Permanency Planning.

OJA is neutral on SB410. **However, I would request an amendment to new section 1 (g) (2).** The new section directs the court to notify any school district when a child has been placed with a CARE family pursuant to the revised Kansas code for care of children and is no longer attending a school in such a school district. I would request the language be revised to direct the Secretary of DCF to notify school districts. The court under the Child In Need of Care Code has jurisdiction over the child, but DCF has custody and placement responsibility. DCF has the most current knowledge as to where the child is placed at any given time. DCF must only provide to the court prior notice of a change in placement if the child has been in a placement for six months or longer. If the child has not been in a placement for six months or longer the court is provided notice at a later date. If the court is notified at the permanency hearing or the review hearing it could be three to six months before the school district is notified.

I ask for your favorable consideration of the suggested amendments.

I am happy to stand for questions.