

2-12-2015

Judiciary Committee Members,

As a Licensed Masters Social Worker I am appalled that our great state of Kansas would even consider putting our children at risk in non licensed foster homes. If you recall in not the so recent past the Region of DCF which includes Sedgwick County had a serious complaint against preferential placements to a group of homes which would fit into the definition of a CARE Home. Several people lost their jobs and citizens in our region have yet to trust us again.

Part of foster care is to maintain as much of the family unit as possible. Taking away parents rights to make educational decisions for their children goes against all we strive for and quite frankly it's just wrong. For many children in our system public school is the one constant they have no matter where they are placed. The children need school maintained as a place that feels comfortable to them. They feel safe there.

I would agree that our foster care system needs some improvement. I do not believe SB 158 is the solution. I fear this bill would set groundwork for a Federal discrimination lawsuit. As you know our budget is sensitive as it is and cannot withstand any more expenditures.

I sincerely hope you ta take a closer look at what is in our children's best interest and that this bill does not move out of committee.

Sincerely,

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