

STATE OF KANSAS

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TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

RANKING

MINORITY MEMBER: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

ETHICS AND ELECTIONS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MEMBER: COMMERCE

JOINT COMMITTEES: ARTS AND CULTURAL

RESOURCES

CHILDREN'S ISSUES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RULES AND REGULATIONS

February 11th, 2016

Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on SB-315

Senator Jeff King, Chairman, Senator Greg Smith, Vice Chair, Senator David Haley Ranking Member, and other esteemed Senators of the committee.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill-315.

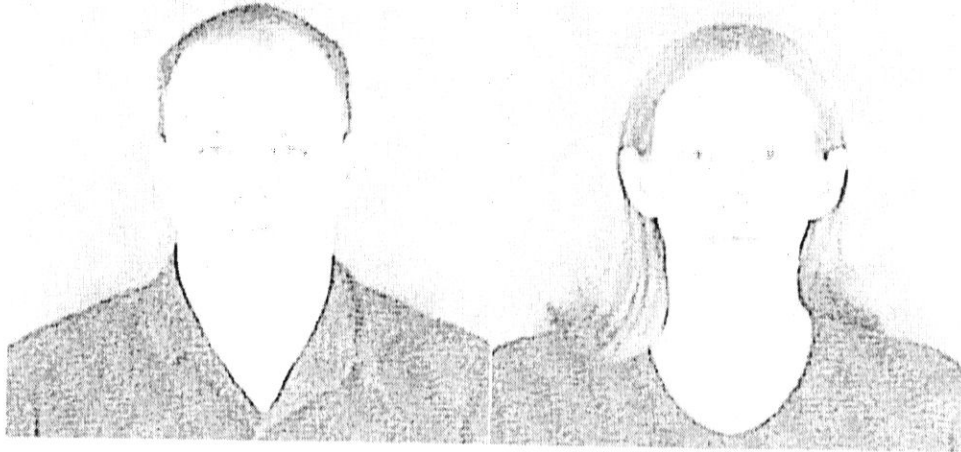
My main reason for running for office was to help fix our Child In Need of Care System relating to Foster Care. This is a platform that I have carried since my first day in office and SB-315 is the embodiment of what I believe will substantially improve the well-being of youth throughout the state.

Upon the implementation of this bill, the number of foster children allowed under a single foster home will be limited to six. Individuals and groups seeking to start a foster home will be required to apply for a license. In doing so, their backgrounds will be thoroughly screened for criminal histories alongside instances of domestic abuse and neglect. Infringements have occurred in Kansas on multiple occasions. Many of you have heard about an instance of child abuse in this very city. As it is a priority to ensure to physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing of children, SB-315 will make sure that only qualified individuals are allowed to care for children who genuinely need both attention and guidance to success. This bill will also increase accountability as it mandates routine inspections of foster homes to guarantee that license holders perform their duties to the best of their abilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Senate Bill-315.

**Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau
Kansas State Senate – 29th District**

Hearing for city councilman's wife accused of child abuse delayed



Fourth District representative Jonathan Schumm (left) and his wife, Allison, each were booked into the Shawnee County Jail on counts of Aggravated Battery and Abuse of a Child, as well as four counts each of Endangering a Child. (Source: Shawnee Co. Sheriff's Office)

By Lindsay Sax | Posted: Thu 3:08 PM, Feb 04, 2016

TOPEKA, Kan. (WIBW)- The wife of a Topeka City Councilman accused of child abuse will have to wait to see if she is eligible for diversion.

Allison Schumm was scheduled to be in Shawnee County Court Thursday. The District Attorney's Office Chief of Staff Lee McGowan says that the hearing has been delayed until Feb. 18. At that hearing the judge will receive an update on the case and decide if diversion is still on the table.

Allison and her husband, Jonathan Schumm, have been charged with counts of aggravated battery, child abuse and four counts of endangering a child.

Jonathan will be in court next on Feb. 19.