



Johnnie Goddard, Interim Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

Written testimony to the
Senate Judiciary Committee
Regarding SB 418

By Jeff Cowger
Commissioner/Compact Administrator
Interstate Compact for Juveniles
February 15, 2016

I appreciate the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of SB 418. There are several proposals in this bill which, if enacted, will allow the Kansas ICJ office to more effectively carry out its statutory duties. Specifically, SB 418 will allow for the greater flow of information to and from the Kansas ICJ office.

Amendment to K.S.A. 38-2210 adds the Kansas ICJ Compact Administrator to the list of individuals who shall freely exchange information to facilitate abuse and neglect investigations.

Amendments to K.S.A. 38-2310 adds the Kansas ICJ Compact Administrator to the list of individuals who may have access to records of law enforcement officers and agencies, municipal courts and intake and assessment.

One of the duties of our state under the ICJ is to arrange for the safe return of out of state runaway juveniles found in Kansas and runaway Kansas juveniles found in other states. Unfortunately, it's not uncommon that a juvenile in this circumstance is a victim of trafficking or other forms of abuse. The more information that the Kansas ICJ office has and is also able to share with DCF and other entities, the more effective our state's response to trafficking becomes.