

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mary Pilcher-Cook at 1:30 pm on Thursday, March 05, 2015, 118-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Laura Kelly – Excused

Committee staff present:

Iraida Orr, Legislative Research Department

Randi Walters, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Whitney Howard, Legislative Research Department

Renae Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jaime Rogers, Interim Deputy Secretary of Family Services, Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)

Charilyn Goolsby, Principal Trainer, Strategic Training Solutions

Valerie Cahill

Christie Appelhanz, Vice President of Public Affairs, Kansas Action for Children (KAC)

Rebekah Gaston, Childhood Hunger Initiative Director, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: SB256 — Kansas department for children and families; eligibility requirements for public assistance.

Chairperson Pilcher-Cook opened the hearing on **SB256**. Nobuko Folmsbee, staff revisor, reviewed the bill. After questions were addressed, the hearing continued.

Jaime Rogers, DCF, testified in support of **SB256**. Ms. Rogers indicated that the primary reason for this legislation is to put into statute existing DCF policies that were enacted in 2011, 2012, and 2013 which would ensure these case management services continue. She stated that it also proposes three new reforms: SNAP adult recipients would be required to cooperate with child support requirements, SNAP recipients would be disqualified for a drug felony after July 2015, and TANF recipients would be prohibited from using cash assistance for sexually-oriented adult materials in sexually-oriented businesses or in any business or retail establishment where minors under the age of 18 are permitted. Ms. Rogers stated that they are following a 2014 Federal law that eliminated the use of SNAP funds for television, radio, and billboard ads for SNAP promotion. Ms. Rogers stated that **SB256** is not eliminating educational outreach for SNAP. ([Attachment 1](#))

Charilyn Goolsby, Strategic Training Solutions, testified that they support **SB256** which would make many DCF policies Kansas law. Ms. Goolsby indicated that the proposed legislation will support TANF recipients in going from public assistance to public contribution. It requires Kansans that need

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assistance to participate in programs and training that will best prepare them for work. Ms. Goolsby stated that the expectation of a TANF recipient should be that if you need assistance, the state is here for you, but it is asking you to grow and develop yourself to be a self-sufficient Kansan. ([Attachment 2](#))

Valerie Cahill testified in support of **SB256**. Ms. Cahill gave a brief history of her experience as a recipient of TANF and how she benefited from her participation in the Work Training Program. Ms. Cahill stated that she believes you can't get something for nothing, and that this law will help encourage participants to want to do more than to just get by. ([Attachment 3](#))

Christie Appelhanz, KAC, stated that there are three reasons that they stand in opposition of **SB256**. Ms. Appelhanz indicated that those three reasons are: it limits access to programs that help families work and escape poverty; it limits efficiency by prohibiting the state from using categorical eligibility; and it decreases eligibility at a time of increasing poverty. ([Attachment 4](#))

Rebekah Gaston, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, testified in opposition of **SB256**. Ms. Gaston indicated that they are concerned that the bill will limit outreach. Ms. Gaston also indicated that their other concern is with the prohibition for anyone with even one felony drug conviction to qualify for food assistance. Ms. Gaston stated that in some cases a first conviction is a felony for certain types of drugs and inhibits rehabilitation making it more difficult for people who are struggling to climb out of poverty. Ms. Gaston stated that they believe it will also increase food insecurity in Kansas. ([Attachment 5](#))

Written testimony in support of **SB256** was submitted by:

Kansas Department of Commerce ([Attachment 6](#))

Brittany Drown ([Attachment 7](#))

Lacey Schmidt ([Attachment 8](#))

Julie Morrison ([Attachment 9](#))

Paul A. Kiecker, District Manager, Springdale District Office, USDA FSIS OFO ([Attachment 10](#))

Written testimony in opposition of **SB256** was submitted by:

Karen Wulfschle, Executive Director, United Community Services of Johnson County ([Attachment 11](#))

Ashley Jones-Wisner, State Policy Manager, KC Healthy Kids ([Attachment 12](#))

Jennifer Roth, Chair, Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Legislative Committee ([Attachment 13](#))

Valerie Nicholson-Watson, President and CEO, Harvesters Community Food Network ([Attachment 14](#))

Stephen Samuels, Executive Director, Local Initiatives Support Corporation ([Attachment 15](#))

Gary Brunk, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Community Action Programs ([Attachment 16](#))

Written neutral testimony of **SB256** was submitted by:

Michael Schuttlöffel, Kansas Catholic Conference ([Attachment 17](#))

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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After some discussion and all questions by the committee were addressed, Chairperson Pilcher-Cook closed the hearing on **SB256**.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2015.