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Kari M. Bruffett, Secretary

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To: Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

From: Lea Taylor
Assistant Secretary

Date: March 4, 2015

Subject: HB 2043, Secretary for aging and disability services, criminal history record information

Chairman Pilcher-Cook and members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB2043. This legislation adds the Secretary of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services into the definition of "Secretary" in the statute in order to give authority to complete background checks.

The original authority to complete background checks was given to Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) in 2005. In 2013, K.S.A. 75-53, 105 was amended to change the name of SRS to the Department for Children and Families. KDADS has relied upon this statute for authority to complete background checks since the Executive Reorganization Order transferred administration of the hospitals and other institutions from SRS to KDADS.

This legislation is needed to clarify the authority of KDADS in order to complete our current and projected workload. For example, KDADS completed 900 checks in 2013 and over 1170 in 2014, including both manual checks and fingerprints. These numbers will increase as additional KDADS managed, licensed or sponsored programs are requiring checks. It is important that this legislation happen for the protection of vulnerable populations served by the Agency.

There are no known costs associated with this action.