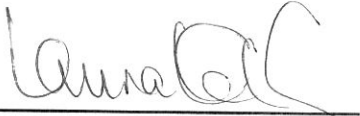


Minority Report – Department for Children and Families

In general the funding recommendations for the Department for Children and Families for FY 2016 and FY 2017 budget are acceptable. However, I object to a budget consideration process which resulted in hearings for a half a billion dollar budget in which not a single conferee presented testimony other than the Department.

This budget contains important social programs including child care assistance, foster care services, and many other programs that directly impact the lives of many Kansas citizens. The Legislatures' budget process should encourage input from Kansas citizens so that their priorities are taken into consideration when determining where to put limited resources.

Additionally, it is impossible to adequately evaluate this Department's budget without understanding of the impact of Executive Reorganization Order No. 43 on the Department's budget and personnel, in which various responsibilities are transferred to and from the Kansas Department for Health and Environment. The lack of detail on the implementation of the proposed ERO is frustrating and not an acceptable method to make budget decisions that impact the lives of the state's most vulnerable citizens.



Senator Laura Kelly