

February 10, 2016

The Honorable Jeff King, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Statehouse, Room 341-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator King:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 410 by Senate Committee on Judiciary

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 410 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 410 would establish a new, special category of foster family referred to as a "CARE" family. The bill lists the qualifying criteria for the new category. The CARE families would serve on a volunteer basis and would receive no payment or reimbursement for any placement. The family would have the sole discretion to determine the educational placement of the child, including the option to home school. The family would be reimbursed for incurred educational expenses when the child is not enrolled in a school district. Reimbursement would not exceed the statewide average state aid per pupil. These funds would be transferred from the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to the CARE Family Education Fund.

The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), requires that states establish one rate for each placement type. Assuming that ACF would consider CARE families to be the same as regular family foster homes, the fact that no payments would be made to these families causes concern that ACF would conclude that Kansas is out of compliance with Title IV-E Foster Care requirements. If that were the case, all Title IV-E funding would be suspended. There is currently over \$20.0 million of Title IV-E Foster Care funding in the FY 2017 budget.

The Department for Children and Families estimates that the administration requirements of this bill would require 1.00 additional FTE per region, for a total of 4.00 new positions, to work with the initial screening and on-going monitoring of these families. The estimated additional salary costs would be \$214,332 and \$18,716 in additional operating costs would also be needed.

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KSDE states that it cannot estimate the number of children that would be placed in a CARE family home and would not attend public schools. However, the current statewide average annual state aid per pupil is \$4,102. This amount times the number of children placed in a CARE family home that do not attend public schools would be transferred to the CARE Family Education Fund. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 410 is not reflected in *The FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Sullivan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Jackie Aubert, Children & Families
Dale Dennis, Education