



House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

February 13, 2018

Testimony on:

HB 2545: Amending the Kansas Lottery Act Regarding Gaming Facilities

Presented by:

Trisha Thomas

Director of Child Support Services

Kansas Department for Children and Families

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Testimony of:

Trisha Thomas, Director of Child Support Services
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House Bill 2545: Amending the Kansas expanded lottery act regarding racetrack gaming facilities

Chairman Barker, Vice Chair Highland, Ranking Member Ruiz and Members of the Committee:

Good morning, I am Trisha Thomas, Director of Child Support Services (CSS) at the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF). I appreciate the opportunity to testify as a proponent of House Bill 2545 today.

DCF CSS program administers the State's child support establishment and enforcement activities, pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. CSS is charged with establishing and enforcing support obligations for more than 139,000 cases affecting Kansas' children. Our primary mission is to help these children receive adequate support from their parents. HB 2545 provides another vehicle to ensure this mission is accomplished.

Currently, the CSS program participates in the debt setoff program, referenced by this bill, which collected \$3.78 million in FFY 2017 for families. These funds were disbursed to both the households of obligees and to the State of Kansas to make them whole, where child support obligors have fallen behind in their support obligation to their children.

HB 2545 creates a new category in the setoff program that makes prize money at certain thresholds, at certain gaming facilities, subject to setoff. The addition of prize winnings to those child support debtor's assets, which can be set off, will benefit both children and the State of Kansas by providing another resource from which to access child support arrears. Arrears paid directly from these winnings will add minimal additional financial cost to collection activities.

CSS supports the creation of a setoff program that will allow the child support program to safely participate. With this bill, we anticipate that there will be increased collections for Kansas families at minimal cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding this bill today. I will be glad to stand for any questions you may have.