



House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

February 14, 2018

Testimony on:

HB 2587

Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors

Presented by:

Patricia Long

Director of Protection and Prevention Services

Kansas Department for Children and Families

Steve Greene II, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs
DCF Administration Building, 6th Floor
785-296-4475 Steve.Greene@ks.gov
www.dcf.ks.gov

Testimony of:

Patricia Long, Director of Protection and Prevention Services
Kansas Department for Children and Families

Testimony on:

HB 2587: Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors

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

I am Patricia Long, Director of Prevention and Protection Services, with Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

House Bill 2587 creates an act relating to children with problem sexual behaviors, and as defined, mandates DCF offer voluntary services to alleged perpetrators, who are minors, of sexual abuse. The bill's definition of "child with problem sexual behavior" may be in conflict with K.S.A. 38-2202 definitions of "child in need of care". Given the broad spectrum of children who may have multiple and varied sexual behaviors, which need to be addressed, this definition may, in addition, be too prescriptive and restrictive to meet the needs of the many different children in DCF custody.

The child in need of care code (CINC) recognizes the serious nature of sexual abuse allegations, providing these matters may be investigated jointly with law enforcement. In these situations, DCF works with law enforcement to ensure the child's safety. Law enforcement leads the investigation following the safety determination, and while opportunities may exist to concurrently work with families to assess service needs, this immediately is not always the case. The outcome of law enforcement's investigation may limit DCF's ability to work with an alleged perpetrator.

DCF assesses and documents risk and safety throughout the life of a case, and when appropriate, this may include cases involving children as alleged perpetrators. These assessments may include long-term risk or reoccurrence and considering available services when engaging the family for an initial plan of services.

DCF continually strives to serve the children and families who come into contact with the agency and wants to ensure current policy and processes and all potential impact of any proposed legislation on such vulnerable children and their families be taken fully into account.

DCF is neutral on HB 2587. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to the Committee.