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JARROD L. OUSLEY
24TH DISTRICT

Testimony before the Federal and State Affairs

Opposition to HB 2687

Representative Jarrod Ousley, Kansas House District 24

March 21, 2018

Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee, for the opportunity to be here today. My name is Jarrod Ousley. I represent House district 24. For the last four years I have served on the Children's and Seniors Committee as well as two separate interim committees overseeing Kansas child welfare/foster adoption system.

I'm sure you are all aware that our system is in a state of crisis. As we work to make crucial improvements needed to provide better services for our children, we must consider their welfare. When a child is adjudicated they become a child in need of care, not a child in need of protection for "sincerely held religious beliefs." **At a time when our number of children in foster care is past maximum occupancy, I think that putting restrictions on potential adoptive parents that have been approved by the state and whose home has passed inspection is not in the best interest of the child.**

It's my opinion HB 2687 is in direct contradiction with the stated zero tolerance policy with regards to discrimination towards same sex or non-traditional foster/adoptive parents.

In closing I would repeat we must have the best interest of the child in mind as we move forward, my fear is this bill could have unintended consequences for our most vulnerable population.

I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Jarrod Ousley

Kansas House District 24