

February 13th, 2018
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill - 319

Senate Education Committee

Honorable Chair - Senator Baumgardner
Vice Chair - Senator Doll
Ranking Minority - Senator Hensley

Good afternoon Madame Chair and other esteemed members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB-319

As a legislator, it is my belief that the welfare of our children should always be at the top of our priority list. Under current law, a child is allowed to attend school even if they are in a short-term temporary placement, as long as they are living with a person who is acting as their parent or is responsible for their care, even on a short-term basis placed by the state or one of the authorized contractors with DCF. However, it has been brought to my attention that foster children are missing 8 days of school or more due to the length of time it takes to transfer from one school to the next. And, we know that if a child misses 3 days or more of school, they fall behind.

We as lawmakers hear educational reports of low performing students in our Kansas schools and this could be one of the reasons. It is my hope that we can fix this problem by allowing foster parents to use the address of DCF or the contractors address to enroll these children in school. Or, perhaps social workers could be able to enroll them. These children should not be sitting in a contractor's office waiting for a bed, our children should be in school.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau