

**To: Senate Judiciary Committee**

**From: Kansas Judicial Council Adoption Law Advisory Committee member –  
Jill Bremyer**

**Date: March 15, 2018**

**Re: Testimony in support of HB 2481 amending the Kansas Adoption and Relinquishment Act**

I offer this testimony in support of HB 2481. I felt honored when asked to serve on the Adoption Law Advisory Committee which includes 2 current District Court Judges, one retired Judge, and one soon to be Judge, 2 legislators, 2 past presidents of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, and a past president of the Kansas Bar Association and Kansas Women Attorneys Association and current member of the American Bar Association House of Delegates. We had a representative from the Department of Children and Families, an attorney whose reputation was as an advocate for father's rights, adoption attorneys who were from cities, rural areas, big firms, solo practitioners, those relatively new to law practice, and others who feel like they have been doing this area of practice "forever." My opinion is that we had an excellent committee of legal scholars, with strong representation for birth mothers, birth fathers adoptive parents, step parent adoption, and newborn to older adoptees, and most every possible scenario. There is no "normal" in today's society.

We diligently worked through every single section of the Kansas Adoption and Relinquishment Act with a goal to update it as needed. We discussed in painful detail every word of certain sections of the statutes in an effort to come up with the best product possible. Members of the committee did extensive research, consulting with

other pertinent Advisory Council committees and others, before finalizing HB 2481. We were also blessed with the diligent and very capable assistance of Christy Molzen, staff attorney for the Kansas Judicial Council.

I am particularly pleased that the committee clarified that adoption proceedings are governed by the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA), with the exception that the notice provisions of KARA continue to control. Also K.S.A. 59-2133 notice provisions under the recommended amendment are clarified.

My background is that I am from a long line of adoption attorneys including my grandfather, father and brother. I was a partner at Bremyer and Wise in McPherson for 25 years before I started my own firm. I have always considered it an extreme privilege to be a part of the adoption experience and have been blessed with an active adoption practice for over 30 years. HB 2481 is good legislation and has the integrity of balancing the interest of all parties involved. I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2481.