



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 126
Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
Wednesday, February 15, 2017**

Chairwoman Schmidt and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 126, which will update Kansas background check requirements for child care providers, in compliance with the new federal law passed in 2014.

As the largest provider of child care programs in Kansas, the YMCAs of Kansas feel this bill falls directly in line with our organization's clear, compelling and demonstrated commitment to keeping kids safe. The Kansas State Alliance of YMCAs represents the collective voice and impact of 10 Kansas Y Associations serving 33 communities and 540,000 Kansans all throughout the state. Our charitable work strengthens communities by advancing the goals of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Although the YMCA has always identified child safety and child abuse prevention as a priority, we recognize that there is a need to continuously enhance the safety, prevention and training procedures of all Kansas child care facilities. This bill would do just that by expanding the list of prohibitions for those interacting with childcare facilities to include any individual that has been convicted or adjudicated of a crime that requires registration as a sex offender under the Kansas offender registration act, as a sex offender in another state, or as a sex offender on the national sex offender registry. The bill would also expand the prohibition against individuals listed on the child abuse and neglect registry maintained by the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) to include individuals listed on the child abuse and neglect registry maintained by any other state or the federal government.

Ys serve a large number of children every day, which unfortunately makes the Y a target for predators who engage in child abuse and maltreatment. This bill is a proactive approach to child safety that allows child care facilities such as the YMCA, to more effectively serve our communities in making our facilities, programs and services safer. We urge your support of Senate Bill 126.

---Jennifer Bruning, Executive Director

KANSAS STATE ALLIANCE OF YMCAS

Jennifer Bruning, Executive Director

P 816 679 8251 E JBruning@KSYMCA.org

KSYMCA.org