

Testimony on Senate Bill 126

Presented to
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

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Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today to speak in support of SB 126.

SB 126 amends K.S.A. 65-516 pertaining to restrictions on persons maintaining, residing, working or volunteering in a child care facility. The bill expands the list of prohibitions to having 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 a sex offender on the national sex offender registry. Additionally, the current prohibition against individuals listed on the child abuse and neglect registry maintained by the Kansas Department for Children and Families is expanded to include individuals listed on the child abuse and neglect registry maintained by any other state or the federal government.

The proposed changes are necessary to comply with new requirements for States found in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-186) (also referred to as Child Care Development Fund Reauthorization). More importantly, background check requirements are protections intended to reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to children while in regulated, out of home child care settings. Conducting searches of registries maintained by other states reduces the likelihood that an individual prohibited in another state would have access to children in Kansas child care facilities.

The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) serves as lead agency for the CCDBG. KDHE child care facility licensing requirements serve as the foundational health and safety standards for the purposes of meeting CCDBG requirements. KDHE and DCF are working jointly on mutual aspects of the Reauthorization including this proposed legislation.

The Agency respectfully requests that a conviction of arson as described in K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 21-5812 be added to Section 1. (a)(1)(D) page 1, line 31:

(D) has been convicted of any act which that is described in K.S.A.21-4301 or 21-4301a, prior to their repeal, K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 21-5812, or K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 21-6401, and amendments thereto, or similar statutes of other states any other state or the federal government;

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to explain the benefits of this bill. I will now stand for questions.