Kansas

Department for Children and Families

Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas

Senate Public Health and Welfare:

February 12, 2018

Testimony on:

SB 311

Adding EMS Personnel to the List of Mandatory Reporters of Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation of Certain Adults

Presented by:

Kathy L. Armstrong

Prevention and Protection Services

Kansas Department for Children and Families

Steve Greene II, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs
DCF Administration Building, 6th Floor
785-296-4475 Steve.Greene@ks.gov
www.dcf.ks.gov

Testimony of:
Kathy L. Armstrong, Assistant General Counsel for Prevention and Protection Services
Kansas Department for Children and Families

Testimony on:
Proponent testimony on Senate Bill 311

Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Bollier, Ranking Member Kelly and Members of the Committee:

I am Kathy Armstrong, Assistant General Counsel for Prevention and Protection Services, with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

If passed, SB 311 adds an "*emergency medical services attendant*" as a mandated reporter when there is reasonable cause to believe a resident (adult care homes) or another adult is being or has been abused, neglected or exploited or "in need of protective services".

DCF provides services to vulnerable Kansans of all ages. DCF can only serve those vulnerable adults brought to our attention, and although we believe any person will notify us when they see or believe something amiss, mandated reporting statutes serve as a reminder to professionals the important role they play in assisting to protect vulnerable adults. As first responders, "emergency medical services personnel" may, in fact, be the first to observe signs of abuse.

DCF appreciates the many emergency medical services attendants who currently submit reports as they come across vulnerable adults. This bill reinforces their role in Kansas' system of protecting our most vulnerable Kansans
DCF supports SB 311. Thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony to the Committee, and I am happy to stand for questions.