



## Senate Public Health and Welfare:

March 12, 2018

*Testimony on:*

**HB 2639**

**Criminal Background and Fingerprinting Fees**

Testimony by:

Sandra Kimmons

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**Chairman Schmidt and Vice Chair Boiller, Ranking Member Kelly and Members of the Committee:**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2639.

The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) administers the Child Care and Development Block Grant in Kansas. The grant funds provide, not only child care subsidy benefits administered by DCF, but also support to the child care licensing program administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

HB 2639 provides for the KDHE Secretary to adopt rules and regulations to fix a fee for fingerprinting persons residing, working or regularly volunteering in a child care facility. It also provides for the creation of the child care criminal background and fingerprinting fund. Fees collected will be used to pay for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and Federal Bureau of Investigation to process fingerprints. In short, this bill will allow us to ensure as safe environment as possible for people watching our children.

In November 2014, Congress passed the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act. The act mandates that states must complete comprehensive background checks on potential child care providers, child care staff members (including contract employees or self-employed individuals) and any individual living in a family care home. The background check must include, but is not limited to, an FBI fingerprint check using Next Generation Identification; a search of the National Crime Information Center's National Sex Offender Registry; a search of the State criminal registry or repository, State sex offender registry or repository, and the State child abuse and neglect registry and database where the staff member resides and resided during the previous five years. DCF and KDHE are partnering to ensure background check requirements will be met.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2639.