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Please Respond to the Wichita Office

February 17, 2020

Via Email  
House Judiciary Committee

Re: HB 2699  
Bill in support of use of Court Service Officers for Child in Need of Care proceedings

To Whom It May Concern:

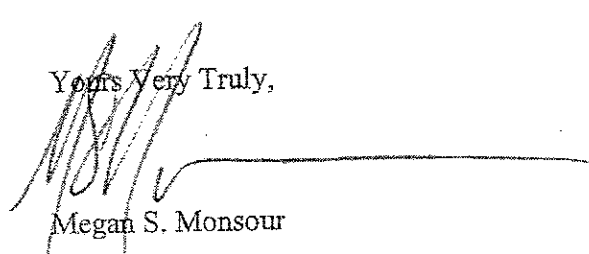
My name is Megan Monsour. I am an attorney in Wichita, Kansas, and have been practicing in the area of adoption and family building for almost twelve years. More increasingly, I represent foster families who are seeking representation to advocate for a child in their custody through the Department of Children and Families. I also bring private Child in Need of Care actions.

During my twelve years advocating for the best interest of children, I have seen the priceless addition the work of Court Service Officers provide in Child in Need of Care cases. The Court Service Officers bridge a gap between the state and contracting agencies and the court and other professionals. Unfortunately, so many of the social workers assigned to a child's case change many times throughout the life of a case. The opposite is true of the Court Service Officers. The consistency, experience and knowledge they provide can impact a child's case in a way that will last the child's lifetime.

The high volume of cases that Sedgwick County and other urban counties see, mean many case workers have too many cases and too little time. The Court Service Officers are able to make sure the case stays on track for the best interest of the child.

Our foster care system is need of improvements. Any threat of removal of Court Services Officers is not a thoughtful improvement that threatens to make matters worse. Passing this bill, ensures the ability to allow Court Service Officers to remain where they are most needed: protecting our most vulnerable, the children of Kansas.

Yours Very Truly,



Megan S. Monsour