



**Proponent Testimony on HB2088 – Written Only
House Federal and State Affairs Committee
February 1, 2021**

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee, my name is Rachel Marsh. I am the CEO of the Children's Alliance of Kansas. The Children's Alliance is an association of 18 private, non-profit child welfare agencies that collectively provide a full array of services for children and families in child abuse and neglect prevention, family preservation, foster care, adoption, independent living, and parent, youth, and child skill-building, mental health, and substance use treatment. One of the purposes of the Children's Alliance is to advocate for public policy that strengthens child and family well-being in Kansas. We thank this Committee for considering the important issue of child abuse investigations.

Children's Alliance members serve the most vulnerable residents of Kansas – children who have been victims of child maltreatment and neglect. In the most tragic circumstances, we are called to assist in coordinating care, safety, protection, and treatment for children who have been subjected to severe child physical or sexual abuse or even to child torture. HB2088 would provide an important safeguard to ensure that a child's physical condition and demeanor can be observed by an investigator. We believe this visual confirmation of a child's appearance and demeanor during investigations is critically important. We encourage this committee to support HB2088 as a critical step forward for the safety of Kansas children.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of HB2088. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance as you consider this bill.

Members of the Children's Alliance of Kansas:

CALM, Emporia
Cornerstones of Care, Overland Park
DCCCA, Lawrence
Eckerd, Wichita
EmberHope, Wichita
Florence Crittenton, Topeka
FosterAdopt Connect, Olathe
Great Circle, Lawrence
Kansas Children's Service League, Topeka

KVC Kansas, Olathe
KidsTLC, Olathe
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Mayetta
Restoration Family Services, Wichita
Saint Francis Ministries, Salina
TFI Family Services, Topeka
The Children's Shelter, Lawrence
The Villages, Topeka
Wichita Children's Home, Wichita