



**Written Testimony in Support of HB2088
House Federal & State Affairs Committee
Monday, February 1, 2021**

FosterAdopt Connect is pleased to submit testimony in support of HB2088. *FosterAdopt Connect* is a licensed Child Placing Agency in Kansas. Our agency offers many program services to Kansas children, youth, and families as they navigate the complexities of the child welfare system. With the help of innovative tools, a dedicated professional staff, and over 20 years of experience working in the Kansas and Missouri foster care systems, we're equipped to connect children with families that provide love, healing, and stability for a brighter future.

FosterAdopt Connect completed an in-depth review of the case records from Missouri and Kansas of the Adrian Jones case. There were several places within the life of that case in each state, where allegations had been made to the appropriate authorities in order to initiate a child abuse investigation. However, Adrian's father and step-mother were able to keep Adrian from being observed while clear evidence of his abuse was still present on his person. This bill creates a critical protection for our most at risk children, and there is no appropriate excuse for not passing it.

Small children, especially, are killed regularly by their primary caregivers. When physical abuse is alleged these young victims cannot advocate for themselves. They need the eyes of professionals to see what they cannot say. For this reason, *FosterAdopt Connect* strongly encourages the passage of HB 2088.

Again, we support HB2088 as it will allow solid protections for our most vulnerable youth. We urge the committee to pass the bill out favorably."

Lori Ross
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