



**Proponent Testimony on HB2206 – Written Only  
House Health and Human Services Committee  
February 9, 2021**

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee, my name is Rachel Marsh, CEO of the Children's Alliance of Kansas. The 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.

The Children's Alliance supports HB2206. We are strong proponents of the need for innovative and expanded telemedicine access in Kansas. Our members provide behavioral health and substance use treatment services and have pivoted during the COVID-19 pandemic to serve children and families through the expanded flexibility created for telehealth during the public health emergency. We appreciate the Special Committee on Mental Health Modernization and Reform's focus on telemedicine as a key priority for Kansas behavioral health. Our members believe continued access and use of telemedicine can bring an important support to children and families involved in the child welfare system, which was also recognized by the Special Committee.

The Children's Alliance would like to see HB2206 go further in terms of payment parity for telemedicine. Payment parity for telemedicine would build a critical support for behavioral health and substance use treatment providers in Kansas, which in turn will benefit Kansas children and families.

Thank you again for your leadership and attention to the important issue of telehealth in Kansas. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance as you consider HB2206.

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