

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



SUSAN HUMPHRIES

99TH DISTRICT

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DATE: January 25, 2022
TO: Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: Susan Humphries, Kansas House of Representatives, District 99
Re: Proponent Testimony HB 2075 (In-person)

Dear Chairman Warren and members of the Committee,

Four years ago the Kansas Judicial Council came before you with a comprehensive review of the Kansas Adoption Statutes. K.S.A. Chapter 59, Article 21. Those changes were passed out of committee, adopted by both chambers, and signed into law in 2018.

One section of that revision addressed “venue” in adoptions, with the goal of discouraging “venue shopping”, or the practice of choosing a judge who might be more sympathetic to the interests of the person filing the petition. Once adoption attorneys started abiding by the revised adoption statutes, it was discovered that the venue section did not adequately address venue in state agency (DCF) adoptions. As it stands now, venue is proper in the county where the petitioner (adoptive parent) resides, in the county where the child resided prior to agency custody, or the county where the principal place of business of the agency is located.

But, those three venue options do not take into consideration several circumstances when the petitioners are adopting out of the foster care system. HB 2075 would remedy this omission, and encourage attorneys to continue offering their services in DCF adoptions, particularly able to serve rural or smaller counties.

Of note, in 2020, the House passed this exact bill 124-1. Due to the shortened session, the Senate did not take it up. I’m happy to answer any questions, and request you pass HB 2075 favorably out for passage.

Sincerely,
Susan Humphries

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