

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



**SUSAN HUMPHRIES**

99TH DISTRICT

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DATE: February 4, 2021  
TO: House Children and Seniors Committee  
FROM: Susan Humphries, Kansas House of Representatives, District 99  
Re: In-Person Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB 2115

Dear Chair Concannon and Committee,

Today I come before you in support of HB 2115. I come as the previous vice-chair of this committee, and as an adoption attorney.

I support establishing a joint oversight committee on child welfare for one reason: Our child welfare system is in a world of hurt and disfunction, and something must be done. Thousands of children in the foster care system, mismanagement by players in the system, not enough foster homes or CASAs. We know there are many good people and good organizations working in the system, but we have no coordinated structure to address solutions. Last fall, as you know, we had a taskforce to learn about child welfare, and to listen to many stakeholders.

But I want to be clear . . . a taskforce is NOT an oversight committee. That taskforce gave us good data and a good jumping off place. But now we need action. We need to support foster families and child placing agencies, improve training, implement structural changes, introduce legislation, offer ongoing oversight, and drive home solution based implementation.

A joint oversight committee can listen and give voice to our most vulnerable, and actively address needed changes.

I urge support for HB 2115 to deal with a system in crisis and to be a safety net for our most vulnerable.

Thank you, Susan Humphries