



KANSAS YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Proponent Testimony on HB 2468
House Committee on Children and Seniors
March 16, 2022**

Chairwoman Concannon and Members of the Committee, my name is Hannah Gremillion, I serve a dual role as the Kansas Chafee Independent Living Youth Advisor overseeing the Regional Youth Advisory Council (RYAC) & Kansas Youth Advisory Council (KYAC), I am also President of KYAC. Assisting with this testimony is Cory Seller who is the Vice-President of KYAC and works as a family advocate with SEK-CAP. KYAC is a council of young people with lived experience in the child welfare system in Kansas who advocate for youth while teaching leadership and self-sufficiency skills.

Amendment Recommendations:

KYAC respectfully asks you to consider the following recommendations. First recommendation, amend bill to include section that outlines the steps a youth should take if their rights have been violated and/or they have been harassed- clarifying that there can be no repercussions in the case of a report. Second recommendation, amend bill to include section which states youth has the right to access their vital documents upon aging out of care.

KYAC Position

KYAC stands in support of House Bill 2468.

I, Hannah Gremillion aged out of care in 2018, though was not made aware that I had rights until I joined KYAC in 2019. Speaking on behalf of this council, I am not the minority as several members have expressed, they too were unaware of their rights until they joined KYAC. Therefore, as a council of young people with lived experience we urge you to move the bill forward in passing this bill with our suggested provisions. As HB 2468 will increase the chances that children in foster will have as many protective factors in place as possible.

Hannah Gremillion
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