

627 SW Topeka Blvd | Topeka, KS 66603



**Proponent Testimony on HB2247 – Written Only  
House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee  
March 6, 2023**

Chair Hoheisel, Vice Chair Clifford, Ranking Member Xu, and Members of the Committee, my name is Rachel Marsh, CEO of the Children's Alliance of Kansas. The Alliance is an association of 19 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. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2247.

Our member agencies in partnership with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) provide case planning services to older youth exiting the foster care system. These youth learn life skills, such as money management, through their case managers, foster parents, and relatives to prepare for living independently. In our practical experience, current law does not allow foster youth to obtain a bank account to safely secure their money and practically apply these skills without a cosigner. Without access to a bank account, foster youth may have difficulties securing employment due to direct deposit requirements and are at a disadvantage in securing assets compared to non-foster youth counterparts. This barrier can contribute to additional issues with securing housing or education opportunities after youth exit the foster care system.

HB2247 removes this barrier and enables those caring for foster youth aged 16 or older a greater opportunity for enhancing financial literacy skills prior to exiting foster care services.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB2247. Please reach out to me with any questions you may have.

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**Members of the Children's Alliance of Kansas:**

CALM, Emporia  
Cornerstones of Care, Kansas City  
DCCCA, Lawrence  
Eckerd Connects, Wichita  
EmberHope, Wichita  
Florence Crittenton, Topeka  
FosterAdopt Connect, Olathe  
Foster the Cause, Topeka  
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Great Circle, Lawrence

KVC Kansas, Olathe  
KidsTLC, Olathe  
Restoration Family Services, Wichita  
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