



Kansas Children's Service League
Stronger families start here.

House Committee on Welfare Reform
HB 2179
Proponent Written Testimony
March 13, 2023

Thank you Chair Averkamp, Vice Chair Howell, Ranking Minority Member Meyer and Committee Members for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2179. Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) is a statewide private, non-profit, 501(c)3 serving children and their families. We are the Kansas Chapter for Prevent Child Abuse America. KCSL works to create, repair and restore healthy parent-child relationships which are the foundation of a strong family.

There is over 30 years of research now about the impact of childhood adversity. **Childhood adversity includes abuse and neglect as well as other household dysfunctions.** The childhood trauma stemming from adversity can have a profound impact on social connections, school readiness, and an increased likelihood of developing negative coping mechanisms which have an impact on our larger society in terms of health-related costs, worker productivity costs, and criminal justice costs as these children become adults. BUT we also know from more recent research children and adults who have experienced adversity have great capacity to also build resiliency.

Providing children, youth and their parents stable, responsive, nurturing relationships can prevent or even reverse the damaging effects of early life stress, with lifelong benefits for learning, behavior, and health.

Quality, affordable childcare provides safe, stable, and nurturing relationships for children in addition to alleviating a stress in a family's life, worrying about if their child will be safe while they work. HB 2179 offers an opportunity for more families who are struggling to gain access to quality, affordable childcare. The impact really is on our future-the children who will have access to childcare that encourages their development and helps ensure they are ready to enter school ready to learn.

KCSL supports the proposed changes in HB 2179.

Thank you for your consideration.

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