



Kansas
Department of Social and
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Children and Family Services

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Testimony of:

Gina Meier-Hummel, Director of Children and Family Services
Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Topeka, Kansas

presented to:

The Hon. Pat Colloton and Honorable Members
of the Kansas House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice:

SRS testimony on HB 2779

Chairman Colloton, Vice-Chair Kinzer, Ranking Member McCray-Miller and Honored Members:

I am Gina Meier-Hummel Director of Children and Family Services with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB 2779.

House Bill 2779 authorizes the Attorney General to coordinate law enforcement training on human trafficking and designates the *Human Trafficking Advisory Board* as the authoritative human trafficking board for the State. The bill establishes the *Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Fund* within the Office of the Attorney General, and prescribes its uses to include training costs and services for victims of human trafficking.

House Corrections & Juvenile Justice
Committee

2012 Session

Date 3-14-12

Attachment #

21-1

Although the agency is neutral to the criminal sections of the bill, the bill, as written raises concern over the fiscal impact. The area of concern centers on the court-ordered placement of children subject to human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, or selling sexual relations.

As the bill is currently written, the courts would directly place these children with a secure facility, youth residential facility or juvenile detention facility. According to current law, when the child is in the custody of the Secretary of SRS the responsibility for placement decisions is assigned to the Secretary.

The agency proposes an amendment to bring this bill in line with the existing laws by removing the language as follows: "*the court may directly place the child with a secure facility, youth residential home or juvenile detention facility*", and replacing with: "*the court directly place the child, except if a child is in the custody of the Secretary of SRS, the court may authorize placement with a secure facility, youth residential home or juvenile detention facility*".

Thank you.

**Gina Meier-Hummel
Director, Children and Family
Services**