



House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

February 15, 2018

Testimony on:

HB 2517:

**Kansas Lottery; permit lottery, vending machines;
debt setoff**

Presented by:

Trisha Thomas

Director of Child Support Services

Kansas Department for Children and Families

Testimony of:

Trisha Thomas, Director of Child Support Services
Kansas Department for Children and Families
Topeka, Kansas

Testimony on:

House Bill 2517: Kansas lottery; permit lottery vending machines and bingo ticket vending machines; lottery sunset extended; debt setoff; certain lottery money pledged to mental health and community crisis programs

Chairman Barker, Vice Chair Highland, Ranking Member Ruiz and Members of the Committee:

Good morning, I am Trisha Thomas, Director of Child Support Services (CSS) at the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF). I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2517 today.

The DCF CSS program administers the State's child support establishment and enforcement activities in accord with Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. CSS is charged with establishing and enforcing support obligations for more than 139,000 cases affecting Kansas' children. Our primary mission is to ensure these children receive adequate support from their parents. Currently, the CSS program participates in the setoff program referenced by this bill, which collected \$3.78 million in FFY 2017 for families. These funds went to both the households of obligees and to the State of Kansas to pay off obligor's child support arrears.

HB 2517 creates a process by which the Kansas Department of Administration enters individual agreements with each manager of defined gaming facilities. These agreements then allow the offset process to occur. The proposed language is not ideal for DCF CSS, in that it fails to clearly identify and address data security and confidentiality requirements. In that respect, we prefer the language and mechanisms of HB 2545, as it accomplishes the same end without potentially placing confidential information at risk. Under the provisions of HB 2545, the only information shared with the gaming facilities is that a State debt exists, which the winner owes.

CSS supports the creation of a setoff program that will allow the child support program to safely participate. With the necessary safeguards in place to protect confidentiality of program data, we anticipate that there will be increased collections for Kansas families at minimal cost. DCF is supportive of legislation that could increase child support collections for families and children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding this bill today. I will be glad to stand for any questions you may have.