



Testimony on HB 2734, concerning the behavioral sciences regulatory board; relating to licensure of health professions and practices; allowing board-approved postgraduate supervised experience to count toward graduate level supervised clinical practicum of supervised professional experience; permitting current master's and clinical level licensees to take the addiction counselor test; amending K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 65-6306 and 65- 6610 and repealing the existing sections

House Health and Human Services Committee

March 14, 2022

Good morning, Chairperson Landwehr and Health and Human Services members. My name is Nickaila Sandate, CEO at EmberHope Youthville in Newton Kansas. For over 90 years EmberHope Youthville, a child welfare non-profit agency, has been committed to diligently work to lead healthy change for children and families by offering innovative trauma-sensitive programs rooted in faith.

We present today in support of HB 2734. Upon admission to our Residential Program Services, our therapist conduct an assessment to create a treatment plan. If referred for substance abuse, an addiction counselor conducts a substance abuse screening. We have seen a critical need for substance use treatment based on the increase of assessments for addiction counseling from 70% of residents in FY19 to 82% in FY21.

The combination of therapy and addiction counseling for the young women we serve are essential to alleviate risk-factors associated with the already vulnerable child welfare population. Although we currently employ a part-time addiction counselor in Newton on our campus we continue to face challenges to meet the increasing need with limited workforce resources. The opportunity to utilize our other clinical level licensed therapist to support the path to recovery for these young women would meet an unanswered need for those we serve.

EmberHope Youthville's residential program is rooted in faith and committed to caring for children in innovative ways that encourage their mental, physical, and creative growth through therapeutic forms of expression. Our Newton residential campus serves girls and young women ages 10-18, inspiring positive change through help with life skills, coping skills, social skills, problem-solving, and the ability to develop and maintain healthy relationships. Our mission is to use trauma-informed services to help these children safely return to their families and communities.

We appreciate your time today and urge you to pass this bill. Its passage gives us additional tools to better meet the needs of the young women we serve each day.



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