



**Proponent Testimony on HB2127 – Written Only
House Judiciary Committee
February 1, 2021**

Chairman Patton and Members of the Committee, my name is Rachel Marsh, CEO of the Children's Alliance of Kansas. The Alliance is an association of 18 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. One of the purposes of the Alliance is to advocate for public policy that strengthens child and family well-being in Kansas. We thank this Committee for considering the issue of DCF disclosure of information about child abuse fatalities.

Children's Alliance members serve the most vulnerable residents of Kansas. In the most tragic circumstances, we are called to assist in coordinating care, safety, protection, and treatment for children or the siblings of children who have been subjected to severe physical abuse or even to child torture. We support that generally, the Kansas child in need of care code appropriately protects confidentiality and privacy issues for child victims of maltreatment. However, when there is public attention brought to a child fatality case due to criminal charges, the public will have valid and important questions. In these situations, DCF should be able to share information about prior involvement or services to the child and family. We encourage your support of HB2127 as an important step for transparency about child fatalities in Kansas. This transparency should support our collective efforts to ensure Kansas children are safe from maltreatment.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of HB2127. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance as you consider this bill.

Members of the Children's Alliance of Kansas:

CALM, Emporia
Cornerstones of Care, Overland Park
DCCCA, Lawrence
Eckerd, Wichita
EmberHope, Wichita
Florence Crittenton, Topeka
FosterAdopt Connect, Olathe
Great Circle, Lawrence
Kansas Children's Service League, Topeka

KVC Kansas, Olathe
KidsTLC, Olathe
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Mayetta
Restoration Family Services, Wichita
Saint Francis Ministries, Salina
TFI Family Services, Topeka
The Children's Shelter, Lawrence
The Villages, Topeka
Wichita Children's Home, Wichita