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Cornerstones of Care has been providing child welfare and behavioral health services for decades. The organization partners with the Department for Children and Families to provide Foster Care Case Management, Reunification and Adoption; Family Preservation; Transitional Living; and Functional Family Therapy Services for thousands of Kansas children and their families.

H.B. 2187 calls for the establishment of the Office of Child Advocate in the Department of Administration to assure that children receive adequate protection and care through services offered by the Department for Children and Families. Children are brought into the state's care through no fault of their own. Their circumstances may result in their interface with multiple public and private agencies, as well as individuals, all with different responsibilities and priorities that can cause confusion and conflict. This contributes to the trauma that brought these children into care.

Cornerstones of Care supports the intent behind H.B. 2187, which provides the opportunity for individuals to bring concerns to an independent third party for review and potential recommendations. We have seen it work well in other states, working through differences and seeking solutions that are in best interest of the children, mitigating conflict and further traumatization. The Office of Child Advocate merits consideration by the Kansas Legislature.

Denise Cross
President and Chief Executive Officer

*Partnering for **safe and healthy** communities.*

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