



Kansas Children's Service League

Stronger families start here.

Testimony to House Children and Seniors Committee

House Bill 2371

February 22, 2021

Chairwoman Concannon and Members of the Committee:

Thank you, I am Gail Cozadd, CEO for Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL). Strong families start here at KCSL, a statewide private, non-profit, 501(c)3 operating in Kansas since 1893. KCSL is the Kansas Chapter for Prevent Child Abuse America and has been since 1993, our mission is ***"To Protect and Promote the Well-Being of Children"*** through a wide array of family services and supports. KCSL works to create, repair and restore healthy parent-child relationships which are the foundation of a strong family. This work fosters long term positive impacts on all Kansans, not just those we serve directly.

KCSL is in support of HB 2371. We know from years of research that one a key to child abuse prevention is access to concrete supports. Child care is a very specific concrete support; and quality child care is key. Child care subsidy is critical for some parents to access this support. In particular:

- Eliminating the requirement to cooperate with child support enforcement. Currently due to this requirement a mother who is concerned about domestic violence and the ongoing safety of her children does not qualify for this necessary support.
- Exempting parents who are continuing to complete their high school education or are enrolled in post-secondary education. We know adults who have a high school education will have access to higher paying jobs and that just increases the further they go in their education. Ultimately the goal should be for parents to be self-sufficient and a quality education is the key to that success.

Thank you for your time today and for thoughtfully considering HB 2371.

Gail Cozadd, MSW

CEO

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