



Testimony  
House Social Services Budget Committee  
February 17, 2021

Dear Madame/Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

It is my pleasure to provide testimony today in support of HB 2250.

Kansas was a pioneer in establishing a comprehensive system to support children's needs – as both the first state in the nation to establish a Children's Trust Fund in 1980, and as the first state in the nation to devote our state share of the Master Tobacco Settlement funds to meeting the needs of children and families with the establishment of the Kansas Children's Cabinet (K.S.A. 38-1901 and 38-2101 through 38-2105) in 1999. In 2014, the Cabinet adopted the "Blueprint for Early Childhood" which we continue to follow today. The Blueprint focuses on three key categories – Healthy Development, Strong Families, and Early Learning.

The Kansas Children's Cabinet recognizes the crucial role developmental and health screenings play in early detection and intervention. The sooner we can identify issues, the sooner we can connect children and their families to the support needed. Research shows that with early intervention and treatment, we can help ensure every child has the best possible start in life. In the case of the Newborn Screening program, it can mean the difference between life and death. We urge you to pass this bill to ensure the resources necessary for this important service are available to meet the needs of Kansas families.

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa A. Rooker".

Melissa Rooker  
Executive Director  
Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund