

March 14, 2017

Amanda Gress, Director of Government Relations
Kansas Action for Children
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 126
House Children and Seniors Committee

Chairman Alford and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for considering Senate Bill 126, which will ensure greater safety for Kansas children in child care. Kansas Action for Children's vision is to make Kansas the best state to raise a child, and our organization shapes health, education, and economic policies that benefit Kansas children and their families. As we have previously testified, promoting safe child care environments is an important part of that work. We thank you for your previous support of House Bill 2187 and encourage you to support the identical Senate Bill 126, which will build on existing child care policies to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect to children in child care:

- **Conducting comprehensive background checks on individuals who work in child care facilities ensures greater safety for Kansas children.** Senate Bill 126 expands the background check requirements for persons who reside, work, or regularly volunteer at a Kansas child care facility. This legislation strengthens provisions of our state law intended to protect Kansas children in regulated child care.
- **This legislation brings Kansas into compliance with the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant, which is a major source of funding for child care services in the state.** In 2014, Congress passed a bipartisan reauthorization of the federal child care legislation, creating the opportunity for states to reexamine and improve their child care licensing policies. Updating the Kansas statute for background checks is an important step to ensure Kansas will continue to receive federal funding for the state's child care infrastructure and the child care assistance program for working families.

Kansas Action for Children supports Senate Bill 126 to protect Kansas children in child care. Please do not hesitate to contact Kansas Action for Children by emailing me (amanda@kac.org) if we can answer questions or otherwise be of assistance.

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