

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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HOUSE MINORITY WHIP

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
Federal and State Affairs  
Redistricting  
Rules and Journal  
Taxation  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER:  
Commerce, Labor and Economic  
Development

January 27, 2023

Chairwoman Susan Concannon  
House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup>  
Suite 149-S  
Topeka, KS 66612

To: Madam Chair, Vice-Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Ousley, and Members of the Committee

I submit this written testimony in support of HB 2112, the Representative Gail Finney foster care bill of rights.

Currently, there are far too many Kansas children in our state's foster care system. We have all seen the numerous news articles detailing the utter failings of this system. This bill is a necessary first step in correcting the failings of the current system for Kansas children in need. While many of these items are included in the Department of Children and Families' Rules and Regulations, I believe these baseline guarantees must be placed in statute. Passage of this bill will also bring needed attention to those children removed from their homes, and hopefully provide foster children some comfort that we as a legislature are working to provide them with basic rights and guarantees, as they work to stabilize and rebuild their lives.

I urge the committee to pass HB 2112, without amendments, along to the full House chamber, where I will ardently support this bill.

Thank you for allow me to submit testimony in support of this necessary legislation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Sawyer Clayton', written in a cursive style.

Representative Stephanie Sawyer Clayton  
House District 19