

State of Kansas



Speaker Mike O'Neal
Kansas House of Representatives

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2533
February 8, 2012

Chairman Kinzer and members of the Committee, I'm pleased to appear in support of HB 2533, an act concerning children and minors; relating to mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse; amending K.S.A 2011 Supp. 38-2223 and repealing the existing section.

In 2011, former Penn State University football coach, Jerry Sandusky, was alleged to have been observed sexually assaulting and inappropriately interacting with underage boys on university property. After the initial allegation occurred a subsequent investigation revealed eyewitness accounts of abuse which were not reported to the university or law enforcement authorities. Currently, our Kansas statute does not include foster parents; clergy; adults in recreation groups, such as Boy Scouts; or employees or administrator of any public or private education institutions in the law. In response to the events at Penn State University and with further research, we have found our state has some holes in the law when it comes to mandatory reporting. This bill would amend current law to add adults that have any authority over children to report cases of abuse.

A requirement of adults with authority over minors to report instances of abuse needs to be included in this law to enhance protection of our children. It is

the responsibility of adults interacting with children to report any acts of abuse of a minor. These amendments to the law would ensure adequate consequences are in place if there is neglect in reporting.