



Kansas Children's Service League

Giving Kids Our Best. For Over 100 Years.

**Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee
on Senate Bill 262
March 7, 2012**

Chairperson Kinzer and Members of the Committee:

I am Dona Booe, President and CEO of the Kansas Children's Service League. I appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 262. The mission of the Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) is "to protect and promote the well-being of children." We are the Kansas chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America and a licensed child placing agency. We provide resource family homes and private adoption services and contract with SRS to operate the Adopt Kansas Kids web site. We also provide Grandparent and Kinship Support Groups in six cities across Kansas and have a Kinship Navigator case management program in Wichita. We strongly support kinship care as a child protection alternative that has enormous value in helping to ensure stability and protection for children within their extended family.

When we testified in the Senate we expressed concern that the bill's original language could have resulted in unintended negative consequences in some private adoptions. We offered a friendly amendment to address that concern, and that amendment has been included in the version adopted by the House in Section 1 (4) (c). We believe that SB 262 is primarily intended to strengthen grandparents' rights when children are within, or at risk of being within, the child welfare system. Therefore, this amendment does not undermine the bill's effectiveness for its intended purpose. We fully support SB 262 in its present form.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 262. I would be happy to address any questions you may have.

Kansas Children's Service League
3545 SW 5th St.
Topeka, KS 66606
785-274-3100