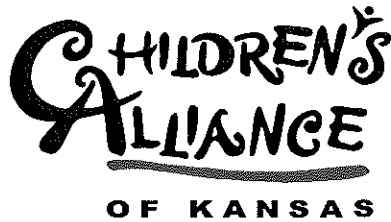


Kyle Kessler
KVC Behavioral HealthCare
President



Bruce Linhos
Executive Director

Community Agencies Serving Children and Families

627 S.W. Topeka Blvd. Topeka, Kansas 66603
(785) 235-KIDS fax: (785) 235-8697 e-mail: blinhos@childally.org
Website: www.childally.org

Senate Judiciary Committee

Written Testimony in Support of HB 2205 March 19, 2013

The Children's alliance is the Association of non-profit child welfare agencies in Kansas. Our members provide services to children in the custody of the state. Services provided by member agencies include foster care, adoption and other residential services. The goal of the child welfare system is always to reunite the child and their family whenever possible. When that is not an option the goal is most often an adoptive placement where the child can find a permanent home.

The Children's Alliance supports HB 2205 because it will shorten the amount of time a child in the foster care system will have to wait for an adoptive family. In child welfare we often speak in terms of "child time". It is critically important that the adoptive process move toward permanency for each child as quickly as is possible. Current law calls for an adoptive hearing to be scheduled not less than 30 days or more than 60 days after a petition is filed.

We believe that HB 2205 is a positive step toward minimizing the time between when an adoption is filed and the court hearing. While many courts in Kansas already strive to minimize the time between filing and adoption it is not consistent across the state. Any child with an identified adoptive family deserves our very best efforts at a timely adoption.

Thank you for considering this important piece of legislation.

Bruce Linhos
Children's Alliance of Kansas