



House Children and Seniors Committee:

February 8, 2018

Testimony on:

HB 2530

Adding EMS Personnel to the List of Mandatory Reporters of
Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation of Certain Adults

Presented by:

Kathy L. Armstrong

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Testimony of:

Kathy L. Armstrong, Assistant General Counsel for Prevention and Protection Services
Kansas Department for Children and Families

Testimony on:

Proponent testimony on House Bill 2530

Chair Davis, Vice Chair Gallagher, Ranking Member Ousley and Members of the Committee:

I am Kathy Armstrong, Assistant General Counsel for Prevention and Protection Services, with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

House Bill 2530 proposes statutorily adding an “*emergency medical services attendant*” as a mandated reporter in K.S.A. 39-1402 (related to adult care homes, as defined by statute) and K.S.A. 39-1431 (related to the general adult population, not in adult care homes) to report when there is reasonable cause to believe a resident (of an adult care home) or an adult is being or has been abused, neglected or exploited or “in need of protective services”.

“Emergency medical services personnel” are already mandated reporters in the Kansas Child in Need of Care Code. Language proposed in the bill brings the referenced statutes in line with best practice related to services to adults who have been allegedly abused, neglected or exploited. Pragmatically, many emergency medical services attendants do currently submit reports, as they are first responders in a variety of situations. The proposed statutory revisions will ensure reporting by all such professionals and the protection of the adults our State agencies serve. DCF supports the improvement to statutes, processes and services related to vulnerable adults who have contact with our agency and are or have been victims of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

DCF supports HB 2530. Thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony to the Committee, and I am happy to stand for questions.