



Department for Children
and Families
Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas

House Children and Seniors:

Mach 20, 2018

Testimony on:

SB 311

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

Presented by:

Brian Dempsey

Kansas Department for Children and Families

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Testimony of:

Brian Dempsey
Kansas Department for Children and Families

Testimony on:

Proponent testimony regarding Senate Bill 311

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

I am Brian Dempsey, an attorney with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

If passed, SB 311 adds an “*emergency medical services attendant*” as a mandated reporter when there is reasonable cause to believe a resident (adult care homes) or another adult is being or has been abused, neglected or exploited or “in need of protective services”.

DCF provides services to vulnerable Kansans of all ages. DCF can only serve those vulnerable adults brought to our attention, and although we believe any person will notify us when they see or believe something amiss, mandated reporting statutes serve as a reminder to professionals the important role they play in assisting to protect vulnerable adults. As first responders, “emergency medical services personnel” may, in fact, be the first to observe signs of abuse.

DCF appreciates the many emergency medical services attendants who currently submit reports as they come across vulnerable adults. This bill reinforces their role in Kansas’ system of protecting our most vulnerable Kansans
DCF supports SB 311. Thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony to the Committee, and I am happy to stand for questions.