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Testimony on Senate Bill 428

**House Children and Seniors Committee
Lorrena Steelman, Director
Child Care Licensing Program
Kansas Department of Health and Environment**

March 22, 2018

Chair Davis and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written, neutral testimony for SB 428. As proposed, SB 428 amends K.S.A. 65-527 concerning licensed school-age programs operating in a school building or a public recreation building.

K.S.A. 65-527 is an existing statute that pertains to licensed programs serving school age children and youth in schools and recreation centers. The language in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) has been updated to define the type of programs impacted and recognize the partnership between the licensed programs and the organizations that house the programs. Proposed changes further clarify that if the school or recreation center complies with fire and local building codes, a license could not be denied, suspended or revoked based on the building not meeting requirements for licensing due to environmental deficiencies. This applies only if there is no imminent risk to children and youth; the deficiency is outside the licensee's immediate authority to correct; and the applicant/licensee has notified the recreation center or school of the deficiency.

This bill replaces SB 305 which was previously introduced on behalf of the Boys and Girls Clubs. As proposed, the bill would have exempted drop-in and school age programs operating in a school building, accredited nonpublic school, or recreation center from the health and safety requirements authorized and implemented by K.S.A. 65-508. The Department worked closely with representatives of the Boys and Girls Clubs to draft alternative language. SB 428 addresses the needs of programs operating in schools or recreation centers while prioritizing the health and safety of children receiving care away from their home and parents.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.