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Testimony on House Bill 2639

Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Lorrena Steelman, Director
Child Care Licensing
Kansas Department of Health and Environment

March 13, 2018

Chairwoman Schmidt and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to speak in support of HB 2639.

As proposed, HB 2639 amends K.S.A. 65-516 concerning child care facilities and grants the Secretary of KDHE the authority to collect a fee for the fingerprinting of individuals residing, working, or regularly volunteering in a child care facility.

K.S.A. 65-516 currently restricts certain individuals from working or volunteering in a licensed facility and authorizes the Secretary to conduct criminal history and child abuse and neglect registry checks. The proposed changes are necessary to comply with new requirements for States found in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-186) (also referred to as Reauthorization). The current statute does not include a provision for collecting and depositing these state and federal fees.

The fees would be collected at the time an applicant or licensee submits a request to the Child Care Licensing Program for a background check pursuant to K.S.A. 65-516. Fees collected would be deposited, in their entirety, in the child care criminal background and fingerprinting fund. All fees would then be passed through to KBI for the processing of fingerprinting as well as state and federal criminal history background checks.

The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) serves as lead agency for the CCDBG. KDHE child care facility licensing requirements serve as the foundational health and safety standards for the purposes of meeting CCDBG requirements. KDHE and DCF are working jointly on mutual aspects of the Reauthorization including this proposed legislation. Additionally, KHDE is working closely with the KBI on all aspects related to the collection and processing of fingerprints.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to explain the necessity of this bill. I will now stand for questions.