

State of Kansas

Senate Chamber



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March 18, 2019

Dear Chairman Barker and Committee Members of the House Federal and State Affairs,

It is an honor to speak as a proponent of SB 77, which was amended in committee and passed 38-0 in the Senate on February 27.

This bill addresses an important issue that has not received consistent address in our state, that of children with sexual behavior problems. SB 77 defines this child and their behavior, terms for which were amended based on input from the advocacy groups that provide treatment services to children with sexual behavior problems. SB 77 also:

- **establishes a mandate** for the Department for Children and Families **to take action** when reports of child on child sexual behavior problems are reported
- includes **immediate referral to a child advocacy center** and the offer of additional services for the child(ren) and family
- provides that services are voluntary **unless DCF determines** there is a high risk of future behavior if the child **or family refuses services**
- **requires DCF to document** attempts to provide services, why services are important, whether services were accepted AND provided, and the outcome of child and family
- allows DCF to determine if a **joint investigation with law enforcement** is required

The Senate Judiciary Committee felt strongly that the provisions of this bill, as amended, were important steps in addressing the psycho-sexual developmental problems of children that act out on other children. Testimony from child advocacy center supervisors that are currently serving children and their families with treatment verified we have programs in place within Kansas. SB 77 provides the guidelines that have been absent for DCF to consistency address children with sexual behavior problems in Kansas.

I am hopeful your committee will move this important bill out of committee for consideration on the House floor. Please join the Senate in taking this step in strengthening efforts to safeguard the wellbeing of our children.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Baumgardner