



**In support of Senate Bill77**

**Testimony of Diana Schunn, Executive Director**

**Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County**

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Senator Wilborn and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share our support of SB77 regarding Kansas Department for Children and Families offering voluntary services to children with problem sexual behavior.

The Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County (CACSC) was founded on the belief that no single agency can serve and treat child abuse—a multidisciplinary team response is necessary. Mental health treatment providers are an integral part of this multidisciplinary team, as they understand the dynamics of families and how trauma and behavioral concerns can influence a child.

The impact SB77 will have on our community is timely and important. Due to gaps in services for this unique population, the CACSC started an evidenced-based treatment program within the last year for children with problem sexual behavior and believes strongly in the importance of offering and providing services to these children and their families immediately. The treatment program known as “Problematic Sexual Behavior-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy” (PSB-CBT) has proven to be 98% effective in eliminating sexual behavior problems in children. Caregiver participation in the program is required and necessary for the support of the child with sexual behavior problems to make changes and for the family to heal.

The only modification we would recommend making in SB77 would be to change the language on line 17, “future sexual abuse by the child with problem sexual behavior” to “future sexual behavior problems by the child.” This small change takes away the stigma of a child being labeled as a perpetrator of abuse and shifts to a simple reminder that these are just children – children with sexual behavior problems that can be addressed and corrected through the support of evidenced-based treatment.

The passing of this legislation will bring awareness to communities regarding the serious nature of the need for treatment for children with problem sexual behavior. I support and encourage the movement forward with this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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