



Kansas County & District Attorneys Association

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To: Committee on Children and Seniors

From: Steve Kearney
On behalf of the Kansas County and District Attorney's Association

Date: January 19th, 2021

Re: Proponent Testimony - House Bill 2062 – Written Only

Chairman Concannon and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for HB 2062 on behalf of the Kansas County and District Attorney's Association and the many Kansas prosecutors it represents.

This measure seeks to allow important and critical information gathered by the State Child Death Review Board to be provided in narrowly defined circumstances. Currently, this valuable information is unavailable for the purposes of research, study and valid law enforcement investigation and prosecution purposes. The narrow circumstances outlined in HB 2062 in which the information held by the State Child Death Review Board may be disclosed would serve to prevent child death and to enhance Kansas efforts to protect the health, safety and welfare of Kansas children. HB 2062 allows the disclosure with new exceptions as follows:

1. For any member of the legislature or legislative committee that has legislative responsibility of the enabling or appropriating legislation, if such member or committee is carrying out the official functions of such member or committee, and if any such committee recesses into a closed or executive meeting pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(a), and amendments thereto, and has taken appropriate steps to preserve its privacy
2. To law enforcement and County and District Attorneys for thorough investigations of child death and abuse.
3. For valid research and study approved by the United States Department of Health and Human Services if personally identifiable information is redacted.
4. To allow data gathered about Kansas children to be aggregated with like data gathered across the nation by other states in the Child Death Review Case Reporting System.

We respectfully encourage your favorable consideration of HB 2062 and ask that you pass it out of Committee recommending it for passage by the House of Representatives in much the same fashion as 2020 when this subject matter passed the House 125 – 0.