

Kansas Department of
Social and Rehabilitation Services
Don Jordan, Secretary

House Judiciary
March 10, 2008

HB 2527

Integrated Service Delivery
Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary

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Chairman O'Neal and members of the committee, I am Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Thank you for the opportunity to appear in support of House Bill 2527.

HB 2527 amends the Kansas code for care of children to clarify and expand the provisions of public disclosure of information from confidential reports. Specifically, information concerning the handling of the case by mandated reporters, law enforcement, the secretary and the courts shall be made available. It also requires the court's decision concerning the opening of the records in death or near death circumstances be provided to the individual requesting disclosure as well as the affected parties.

This bill is consistent with agency values. With appropriate protection for the privacy of individual children and their families, SRS supports openness.

We also support the thoughtful review given by the Judicial Council to proposed changes in the code for care of children as an effective way to balance the needs of the public, children and innocent adults.

Thanks again for the opportunity to express my support and I stand for questions.