

Phyllis Gilmore, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

March 18, 2013

Testimony of:

Gina Meier-Hummel, Director of Prevention and Protection Services
Department for Children and Families
Topeka, Kansas

Presented to:

The Hon. John Rubin and Honorable Members
of the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee:

DCF written testimony on SB 19

Chairman Rubin, Vice-Chair Gonzalez, Ranking Member Finney and Honored Members:

I am Gina Meier-Hummel, Director of Prevention and Protection Services with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF). Our division is responsible for the Kansas Protection Report Center (KPRC) and Adult and Protective Services (APS). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony with respect to SB 19.

Senate Bill 19 amends what constitutes mistreatment of a dependent adult. Currently, mistreatment of a dependent adult involves taking unfair advantage of a dependent adult's physical or financial resources by means of undue influence, coercion, harassment or other deceptive actions. SB 19 as originally proposed defined the term *undue influence* to include the improper use of the responsible adult's fiduciary authority, such as power of attorney, durable power of attorney, guardianship, conservatorship, or trust. Further, SB 19 adds misappropriation of or taking unfair advantage of a dependent adult, and includes money in a personal or joint account.

DCF supports strengthening the law for mistreatment of a dependent adult. However, DCF is neutral as to current SB 19.

Thank you.

**Gina Meier-Hummel, Director
DCF Prevention and Protection Services**