



*Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas*

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## House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

February 21, 2014

*Testimony on:*

**HB 2633**

Presented by:

Brian Dempsey

Director of Prevention and Protection Services  
Kansas Department for Children and Families

**Testimony of:**

Brian Dempsey, Director of Prevention and Protection Services  
Kansas Department for Children and Families  
Topeka, Kansas

**Testimony on:**

HB 2633 – Juvenile Offenders; assessments; sentencing; misdemeanors; minors  
in possession of alcohol

**Chairman Rubin, Vice-Chair Gonzalez, Ranking Member Pauls and Honored  
Members of the committee:**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony regarding HB 2633.

K.S.A. 41-727 currently provides a person under 18 who violates the minimum drinking age law is considered a juvenile offender. HB 2633 amends K.S.A. 41-727 to classify the violator as a child in need of care. Thus, all persons under 18 violating the minimum drinking age law would be reported to DCF, requiring DCF to approach the family and assess the family for services.

Some families may benefit from the offer of services; however, most families in these situations will not require services and may find the level of intrusion into the home offensive. Other reasons for referral to DCF may be present in these scenarios, such as lack of supervision and if present, DCF would be an appropriate referral to assess the family. The mere fact of violating the minimum drinking age should not rise to the level of DCF assessment.

While DCF may appreciate the intent of the bill to move these persons out of the juvenile offender population, DCF asserts the child welfare system is not the solution.