



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Don Jordan, Secretary

House Judiciary Committee
February 10, 2009

HB 2210

Young Adults Age 18 and Older in SRS Custody

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Chairman Kinzer and members of the committee, I am Don Jordan, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Thank you for the opportunity to appear in support of House Bill 2210.

The current budget deficit requires that we examine programs and services to determine how to reduce expenses with minimum negative impact on the most vulnerable populations. Currently young adults may remain in the custody of the Secretary and the jurisdiction of the court until age 21. This bill would terminate jurisdiction when any child in need of care reached 18 or, if still in school, on the following June 1. Ending jurisdiction over the young adults who remain in custody after 18 will result in a savings of \$1,532,318 SGF (\$1,687,876 All Funds). This change to the Kansas Code for the Care of Children will have minimal impact as there are extensive independent living services in place for youth and young adults. The budget includes funds to assure adequate plans and supports are in place for each young adult. Data regarding adults in the custody of the Secretary is available on the attached sheet.

Youth age 15 and older in the custody of the Secretary are supported in identifying goals to achieve self sufficiency, developing a plan to achieve those goals and in implementing that plan. Young adults who leave the custody of the Secretary are eligible for independent living services coordinated by an SRS staff person. If the 18 year old is not immediately interested in independent living services, they are free to say no and also free to contact the agency at any time prior to their 21st birthday. Based upon an approved plan for independent living, available services include:

- o Basic supports for daily living skills training and career planning
- o Kansas Regents tuition waiver program
- o Medical Card eligibility to age 21
- o Monthly Subsidy up to \$300.00 per month until age 21.
- o Financial Assistance up to \$300.00 for one-time start up costs of rent or housing
- o Financial Assistance up to \$500.00 for one-time start up costs of utilities, furniture or housing supplies (non-rent related expenses)



- Financial Assistance up to \$3,500 in the first year for education and training related expenses. Examples of covered expenses are tuition and fees for certification programs and non-Regents institutions, room and board for post-secondary education, technical equipment, tutoring, books and other materials.
- Assistance to assure safe and stable housing.

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