



DCF Legislative Testimony

March 5, 2026

TESTIMONY OF: Tanya Keys, Deputy Secretary, Department for Children and Families

TESTIMONY ON: Written Only | Proponent | HB2132: Determining when a law enforcement officer may or shall take a child into custody

DCF | HB 2132 | POLICE PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

Chair Gossage and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 2132: Determining when a law enforcement office may or shall take a child into state custody.

The bill amends the circumstances of when law enforcement ‘*shall*’ take youth/child into police protective custody to ‘*may*’ in the Revised Kansas Code for Care of Children (CINC Code). This allows discretion on police custody when an officer believes a child will come under imminent harm without removal or that the child/youth is experiencing a behavioral health crisis that poses a threat to themselves or others.

The agency believes this technical change will positively affect families and youth in Kansas by decreasing the number of Police Protective Custody instances which may not be necessary.