



# DCF Legislative Testimony

**March 10, 2026**

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

**TESTIMONY ON:** HB 2639: Neutral Changing the name of juvenile crisis intervention centers to juvenile stabilization centers, modifying the intake criteria and treatment provided at such centers and transferring moneys from the evidence-based programs account of the state general fund for use at such centers.

## DCF | HB 2639 | JUVENILE STABILIZATION CENTERS

Chair Warren and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB 2639 as amended by the House Committee of the Whole. This bill proposes amendments to the revised Kansas Code for Care of Children, Kansas Juvenile Justice Code and K.S.A. 65-536 regarding naming and requirements of Juvenile Crisis Intervention Centers (JCIC).

The Department for Children and Families (DCF) support increasing the continuum of care for crisis stabilization support and services. We have been pleased in recent years to partner in communities alongside local agencies and colleagues at Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) to build capacity for crisis respite and crisis stabilization. We continually strive to increase meaningful crisis treatment services alongside families who need support for their children's wellbeing. We appreciate the spirit and many of the components of this bill that seek to implement quality operations of a center providing crisis treatment to children.

DCF appreciates the work of the House Committee of the Whole regarding amendments. If passed out favorably, DCF will proceed with updating rules and regulations for residential group home licensed facilities and related policies.

DCF has concerns that the amended definition of crossover youth excludes youth adjudicated as a juvenile offender who are also at risk of entering the foster care system. This narrower definition might unintentionally result in a youth dual adjudication as a Child In Need of Care and a juvenile offender to not be considered a priority for admission to a crisis stabilization center. Based on the definition amended by the House Committee, crossover youth status would be determined based on the filing of the Child In Need of Care petition without regard to behaviors that occurred after the petition was filed. DCF requests consideration of the comprehensive definition of cross over youth currently used by the statewide Kansas Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) or a definition that is inclusive of youth with simultaneous dual contact in each system.

Currently, whether a youth is crossover is really a measure of their status at a moment in time. A Kansas youth included in the (CYPM) definition is a young person, age 10 and older, with any level of concurrent involvement with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

- "Involvement" in the Juvenile Justice system includes, but is not limited to, court-ordered community supervision, Immediate Intervention Programs (IIP), and youth placed in detention and correctional facilities.
- "Involvement" in child welfare system includes, but is not limited to, out of home placement, or participation in preventative services.

There is no fiscal impact to DCF with this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB2639.