



DCF Legislative Testimony

March 12, 2026

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

TESTIMONY ON: Proponent | HB 2601 - Child Abuse and Neglect Registry

DCF | HB 2601 | CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY

Chair Warren and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on our support for HB 2601 as amended by the House Committee. HB2601 is bill that codifies the establishment of a child abuse central registry and sets forth various attributes and requirements related to the central registry and related adoption of new rules and regulations.

BACKGROUND AND POSITION

DCF supports establishment of the central registry in state law. The registry is not currently codified in law, though it is referenced with respect to childcare background checks – specifically K.S.A. 65-516, which places restrictions on persons maintaining or residing, working or volunteering at a childcare facility.

Defined in K.A.R. 30-46-10 (e), "Child abuse and neglect central registry" means the list of names of individuals identified by the department as substantiated perpetrators. Further, K.A.R. 30-46-10 provides definitions for alleged, substantiated and unsubstantiated perpetrators and sets forth some of the rights, protections and procedures that this bill proposes to place into law.

The agency appreciates amendments made by the House to New Section 1.6, (c) and (e.), which were of concern in the bill as introduced. These amendments bring the bill into better alignment with current practice and policy in rules and regulations, such as the timeframe to appeal and factors to consider in expungement. Further, the agency supports the amendment providing discretion that the Secretary may investigate and place the individual on the registry when a county attorney or district attorney files a petition alleging that an individual has committed a crime against a child or has abused or neglected a child pursuant to the revised Kansas code for care of children rather than mandating the addition as specified in the original bill.

DCF would engage the process to propose new rules and regulations related to this new section for adoption by July 1, 2027.

There is no fiscal impact to DCF with this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to share our support.