

January 23, 2023

The Honorable Susan Concannon, Chairperson
House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 152-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Concannon:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2034 by House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care

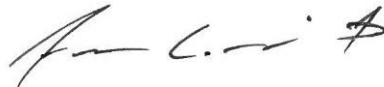
In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2034 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2034 would create statutory provisions for a program currently operating within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) related to the training and payment for Child Abuse Review and Evaluation (CARE) examinations. The bill would establish definitions, requirements, and procedures related to CARE referrals and exams, which would mean a forensic medical evaluation of a child alleged to be a victim of abuse or neglect conducted by a CARE provider. The bill would also create the CARE Fund to be administered by KDHE and provide for use and restrictions of the fund.

KDHE estimates current program expenditures of \$757,000 in FY 2023 and \$758,317 in FY 2024, all from the State General Fund, which is fully funded in the Governor's recommended budget. Enactment of HB 2034 would not generate additional expenditures in either fiscal year but would require the addition of 2.00 FTE positions. While the positions are funded, the agency's position count was not increased at the time the program was funded. Costs estimated by KDHE would be ongoing but would be determined by the number of providers needing training and certification, as well as those needing continuing education. Reimbursements would fluctuate based on child abuse cases in which a CARE exam would be deemed necessary. The agency notes that the bill does not specify the revenue source for the CARE Fund and the total revenues could not be estimated. Once an alternative revenue source is identified, the State General Fund appropriation could be reduced or eliminated based on program revenue and expenditure estimates.

While the provisions of the bill would be added to the Kansas Code for Care of Children, the Department for Children and Families reports that there would not be a fiscal effect on agency operations and all costs for the program would be in KDHE. Expenditures for the current program in operation at KDHE are reflected in the agency's budget in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Proffitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Amy Penrod, Department of Health & Environment
Kim Holter, Department for Children & Families