



March 6, 2025

Dustin Hare, Economic Security Policy Advisor  
Kansas Action for Children  
Verbal Opponent Testimony on SB 85  
House Committee on Welfare Reform

Chairman Awerkamp and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 85, which would require millions of dollars in new spending to increase the Department for Children and Families' (DCF) staff, adopt new technologies to perform functions that they are already performing today, and pay a private vendor for information they currently receive at no cost from other agencies.

SB 85 is an ill-conceived bill in search of a problem. In reviewing the provisions of the bill, it appears to be crafted without considering the eligibility verification processes that are already happening within DCF. Most of the requirements in the bill are tasks that are already being performed within the agency, some with even more frequency than the bill dictates<sup>1</sup>, including:

- The bill requires death records to be reviewed monthly. DCF is already checking these records daily.
- The bill requires out-of-state EBT transactions to be reviewed monthly. DCF is already checking these records daily.
- The bill requires that lottery winnings of over \$3,000 be reviewed monthly. DCF is already checking lottery winnings over \$3,500 on a monthly basis.
- The bill requires the national directory of new hires to be monitored. DCF is already doing this.

The bill also requires DCF to acquire records that are not allowable by USDA Food and Nutrition Services, the federal agency that administers SNAP. It also requires DCF to review Kansas Department of Labor data with more frequency than employers even report the data.

We watched this bill closely because we were worried it would enact stringent requirements that would result in Kansas families losing access to vital public services. What we have found is

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<sup>1</sup> Department for Children and Families. (February 11, 2025). *Testimony on HB 2360*.

[https://kslegislature.gov/li/b2025\\_26/committees/ctte\\_h\\_welfare\\_reform\\_1/misc\\_documents/download\\_testimony/ctte\\_h\\_welfare\\_reform\\_1\\_20250211\\_01\\_testimony.html](https://kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/committees/ctte_h_welfare_reform_1/misc_documents/download_testimony/ctte_h_welfare_reform_1_20250211_01_testimony.html)

that it doesn't require DCF to review anything they're not already reviewing. **Our main concern now is the price tag required for these redundant efforts. The fiscal note reveals it would require an additional 113 FTEs at a cost of about \$10 million each year.**<sup>2</sup>

SB 85 would add inefficiencies and unnecessary spending to achieve goals that are unclear. We urge the Committee to reject this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this topic, and please do not hesitate to contact me at [dustin@kac.org](mailto:dustin@kac.org) if you have additional questions.

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### ***About Kansas Action for Children***

Kansas Action for Children is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to make Kansas a place where every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy and thrive. We work across the political spectrum to improve the lives of Kansas children through bipartisan advocacy, partnership, and information-sharing on key issues, including early learning and education, health, and economic security for families.

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<sup>2</sup> Kansas Division of the Budget. (February 4, 2025). *Fiscal Note for SB 85*.  
[https://kslegislature.gov/li/b2025\\_26/measures/documents/fisc\\_note\\_sb85\\_00\\_0000.pdf](https://kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/measures/documents/fisc_note_sb85_00_0000.pdf)