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Kansas Senate Committee on Government Efficiency (Including Senators Renee Erickson, Michael Murphy, Cindy Holscher, Larry Alley, Rick Billinger, Patrick Schmidt, Doug Shane, Adam Thomas, and Mike Thompson)

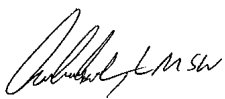
Dear Kansas Senate Committee on Government Efficiency:

I write in reference to SB256 in opposition over concerns that I share with many others employed under the State of Kansas. I am a resident of Hays, KS in Ellis County, KS, and have been employed under the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF), under the Prevention and Protection Services (PPS) since June 2016. Throughout my dedicated years of work to this agency, I have learned of the importance of advocating and working toward positive change for the recruitment and retention of this agency. As a licensed social worker, I already see the dire need for staff within our agency, and I truly feel that if SB256 were enacted, this would create a great obstacle in the ability for our agency to recruit and retain staff who want to commit as many years as I have.

My current role with DCS is serving as a Student Services Supervisor, where my job is to recruit intern students and help them grow in their development, in attempts to hopefully onboard them to our agency. Living in Western Kansas, I see the challenge that our agency has in onboarding staff who want to stay and work as a practitioner within our great state. I have included data that shows how many practitioners licensed under the Behavioral Science Regulatory Board (BSRB) that are serving in the state of Kansas, that have been licensed (both within DCF and external) as well as those unlicensed in the PPS program, that had been working with our families. This also shows the ratio of how many practitioners there are in areas of the state. As you can see, there is a great need for more practitioners no matter where employed. However, as stated, I can confidently say that moving from requiring staff to be in office full-time to the ability to work from home has greatly increased our recruiting efficiency. Additionally, some offices have ran into the issue of hiring more staff than what the office may support, resorting to office-sharing, which could create conflicts for times where private conversations are necessitated.

I appreciate your time reviewing this information over my concern for SB256. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Andrew Jacobs, LMSW
Student Services Supervisor

Enclosure: 2023 Data on DCF and Licensed Professionals