



Kansas Children's Service League

Giving Kids Our Best. For Over 100 Years.

**Testimony before the House Judiciary Committee
on HB 2842
Kansas Adoption and Relinquishment Act
January 31, 2012**

Chairperson Kinzer and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kansas Children's Service League, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of these suggested amendments to current Kansas law regarding adoption, relinquishment, and termination of parental rights. Since the 1940's KCSL has provided domestic private adoption services. Over the years, KCSL has been an advocate for advancing adoption law and practice to protect the rights of the parents while ensuring the child's best interest is always at the forefront.

KCSL believes the proposed amendments are in the best interest of the child and consistent with best practice in today's adoption work. The suggested new language will help to prevent or reduce the likelihood that an adoption would be disrupted, while providing clarification regarding voluntary relinquishment of parental rights. The amendments also provide clarification regarding step-parent adoptions, which are becoming more commonplace.

In summary, we know that disrupted adoptions have an adverse effect on children's social and emotional attachments and development. We believe these amendments will help ensure that fewer children are displaced through adoptive disruptions.

If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact us.

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