

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

Janet Schalansky, Secretary

House Health and Human Services

February 19, 2004

HB 2718 - Irrevocable Funeral Service Agreement Contracts

Integrated Service Delivery
Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary

For additional information contact:
Public and Governmental Services Division
Tanya Dorf, Director of Legislative Affairs

Docking State Office Building
915 SW Harrison, 6th Floor North
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1570
phone: 785.296.3271
fax: 785.296.4685
www.srskansas.org

**Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Janet Schalansky, Secretary**

House Health and Human Services
February 19, 2004

HB 2718 - Irrevocable Funeral Service Agreement Contracts

Representative Morrison and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear on HB 2718. My name is Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary with SRS. HB 2718 increases the current limit on irrevocable funeral agreements from \$3500 to \$5000.

Under current Medicaid eligibility rules such agreements are exempted as countable assets along with the value of any prepaid burial merchandise such as a casket or burial container. SRS' experience is that many of our elderly Medicaid consumers have or obtain such agreements to make sure there are sufficient resources to pay for their funeral and burial needs. Because of limited funding available in the State's funeral assistance program, a prepaid funeral agreement offers better protection for both the individual and his or her family.

Due to inflationary factors since the standard was last increased and the lack of any discernable impact on the agency, SRS would not oppose the proposed increase.

Thank you for the opportunity to present. I would be happy to stand for questions.