

DATE: March 21, 2018

TO: Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

FROM: Susan Humphries, Kansas House of Representatives, District 99

Re: In-Person Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB 401

Dear Chairman Estes, and member of the committee,

SB 401 is a short bill that has important repercussions for the children of the State of Kansas. I stand in support because the time is now for this important piece of legislation. As a State we have record numbers of children in foster care. Most are from complicated backgrounds, and need the full resources of each of our existing agencies. SB 401 will ensure that our faith-based child placement agencies are able to continue to operate as they have for years, and in some cases, decades – according to their sincerely held religious beliefs.

This is a bill of addition, not a bill of subtraction. By passing this bill, not a single birth mother, child, or adoptive parent will be excluded from our broad and diverse state adoption and foster care community. The Adoption Protection Act is designed to assure every person a place.

Faith-filled Kansans have long played a central role in caring for the most vulnerable in our State. With SB 401, they will be allowed to continue to do so, and the agencies serving our most vulnerable children will fully represent our diversity of citizens.