

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as the President & Executive Director of Lifeline Children's Services, Inc. Our ministry is headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, but we have a vibrant and thriving office in Topeka, Kansas. Lifeline has been a licensed child placing agency in Kansas for six years. Lifeline provides services in the following area in the state of Kansas: domestic adoption, international adoption, adoptive home studies, free pregnancy tests, pregnancy counseling services, assistance to mothers, parenting classes, support through pregnancy, temporary care for children from at-risk homes, adoption training, post adoption services and support

I and Lifeline support SB 401 and urge its passing. This legislation would protect our right to operate according to our long-standing, faith-based traditions. If Lifeline were forced to choose between ceasing to provide the above services OR following our sincerely held religious beliefs, it would be a true devastation for the children and families of Kansas.

We receive no state funding in Kansas, or any of the other 11 states where Lifeline operates. Our funding comes solely through donations and fundraising efforts.

We offer our support to SB 401 to protect the diverse range of faith-based, licensed, child placing agencies, and to build a firm foundation for Kansas' relationship with faith-based agencies for the future.

Sincerely,

Herbert M. Newell, IV

President & Executive Director

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Lifeline Children's Services, Inc.