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Written Neutral Testimony

SB 51 - Requiring a Kansas Foster Care Children Annual Academic Report Card

Presented to the Senate Education Committee

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021

By

Deena Horst and Ben Jones, Legislative Liaisons
Kansas State Board of Education

Chairwoman Baumgardner, Vice Chairwoman Erickson, Ranking Minority Sykes and Members of the Committee:

SB 51 requires the State Department of Education and the State Department for Children and Families to prepare a Kansas foster care children annual report card. The bill specifies the data that is to be reported and sets January 15th as the date the report card is to be delivered to the Education Committees in both the House and the Senate.

Since this was not an issue considered by the Kansas State Board of Education to be on its list of Legislative Priorities, we are providing neutral testimony. However, we do see value in such a report card. We all need to be concerned about the level of success reached by foster care children. Education is a large contributor to the potential success of all children. Foster care children have long been a concern of the Legislature. Hopefully, through such a report card, information will be gathered which will lead to strategies which will be more effective in assisting each foster care child as they seek success.