



**fosteradopt  
connect**

Formerly Midwest Foster Care and  
Adoption Association

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### **Written Testimony in Support of: HB2468 & HB2469**

3/16/2022

Chairwoman Concannon and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today to encourage your support of HB 2468, Foster Youth Bill of Rights and HB 2469 Foster Parent Bill of Rights, introduced by Representative Gail Finney of Wichita.

FosterAdopt Connect prides itself on being a grass roots support and advocacy agency for abused and neglected children and the families who care for them. Our history as an organization created by foster and adoptive families, for foster and adoptive families, and our practice of employing a significant number of people who have lived experience as foster youth, creates for us a very personal appreciation for these two bills.

FosterAdopt Connect is also a licensed child placing agency (CPA) providing critical child welfare services in Kansas and Missouri. Our work tells us that retention and lack of foster homes are two of the most difficult challenges we face. Foster Adopt Connect strongly believes that the legislature will be taking an important public step in showing that it values children in foster care and the families that care for them by passing these two bills.

In a foster care system, which is often stretched thin, a core roadmap (such as these bills) which names and enshrines the values that should be present across child welfare can serve as a guidepost for efforts for positive change moving forward. The work has been done in the drafting of these bills to ensure that each bill is well supported by other aspects of current law, and therefore these bills should not be controversial. We believe that now is a great time for Kansans to voice their support for our most vulnerable youth and the families caring for them, and hope that you will positive consider these bills.

Respectfully,

Lori Ross  
President/CEO  
FosterAdopt Connect