



POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU



Assistant Chief Terence Hall
Bureau Director

Major John Cosgrove
Assistant Bureau Director

*** MEMORANDUM ***

TO: Mike Kiegerl, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Children and Families

FROM: Major John Cosgrove
Assistant Bureau Director

DATE: February 15, 2012

SUBJECT: Proposed HB 2137 – Opposition Letter

I am writing to express concerns from a law enforcement perspective about the implications of interview requirements in House Bill 2137. Our department investigates one of the largest volumes of child abuse cases in the State. For more than 15 years, we've worked under a protocol developed by our Department and 16 other law enforcement agencies in Wyandotte and Johnson counties, District Attorney's offices, SRS and treatment professionals. This protocol has maintained the same goals in how we interview for and investigate child abuse, but has changed over the years to accommodate the need for flexibility in certain cases.

In our area, child interviews are conducted by the forensic interviewers employed by our local Children's Advocacy Center, Sunflower House, while detectives observe and provide input into the questions. We try to obtain the necessary information in a single interview. But for some kids, one interview is not adequate. If this happens, the team of the detective, SRS worker and CAC interviewer will make a joint decision about the need for an additional interview and who is best suited to conduct the interview.

If the strict requirements about interviewing children become statute, it will take away the flexibility that law enforcement needs to better respond to the individual requirements of each child abuse investigation. For that reason, we oppose the interview requirements in HB 2137.



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HOUSE CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES
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