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SENATE CHAMBER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

RANKING
MINORITY MEMBER: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
ETHICS AND ELECTIONS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MEMBER: COMMERCE
JOINT COMMITTEES: ARTS AND CULTURAL
RESOURCES
CHILDREN'S ISSUES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
RULES AND REGULATIONS

February 7, 2012

**Testimony for SB-262
Senate Federal and State Committee
Chairman-Senator Pete Brungardt**

Good morning Mr. Chairman and Senators of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to stand before you today in support of SB-Bill 262. It is my pleasure to have introduced this legislation as a committee bill at the request of the Kansas Silver Haired legislature. I first became acquainted with the KSHL in 2004 while serving in the Kansas House of Representatives and was approached by members of KSHL regarding Grandparents and Foster parents issues.

At that time, I co-sponsored a bill with former Rep. Jim Yonally that became law in 2007. This law is better known as the "Grandparents as Care Givers Act" helping Grandparents with additional financial assistance while raising their grandchildren.

During the 2011 legislative session while serving in the Kansas Senate, I was honored to support legislation, again, for the KSHL along with Senators of this committee. That bill became law this past July, giving Grandparents interested party status and automatic notification of court room hearings regarding their grandchildren.

Today, I'm asking for your support again regarding the approval of placement of grandchildren with grandparents during the investigation of the removal of a child or children from the home of their biological parents.

The Kansas Silver Haired Legislature has advocated for Grandparent Rights and Children in need of Care issues for many years. Unfortunately, these issues continue to be at the forefront of the discussion at almost every Town hall meeting I attend in my district. I believe, Senate bill-262 will not only address some of the concerns for members of the KSHL, but will indeed help other Grandparents throughout the State of Kansas. You will hear about these concerns from Mr. Wendell Turner, Speaker of the KSHL.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Senate Bill 262.

**Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau
Kansas State Senate – 29th District**