

STATISTICAL DATA REGARDING GRANDPARENTAL CARE OF GRANDCHILDREN

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Based on 2000 Census data, Kansas has 35,274 children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives. This includes 17,873 grandparents reporting that they are providing day-to-day care to nearly 30,000 of their grandchildren. Keeping families together helps reduce disruptions for children, and that is important to their long-term success.

In the "Child and Family Services Review Statewide Assessment for Kansas (2005), SRS reported that "placement with relatives or other kin continues to be the preferred placement". Every child kept out of the foster care system in Kansas saves an average of \$24,672 a year that we all pay. (Kansas Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services, January 2007).

Child welfare agencies have discovered the advantage of placing children with extended family. These agencies have found children placed with relatives to be safe and nurtured, and to feel more like they are at home than in foster care.

Grandparents are not just providing short-term care. Three-fourths of Kansas caregiving grandparents have cared for their grandchildren for more than one year, and more than one-third have assumed this role for five years or more. (Kansas Public Health Assn. Inc., KPHA E-News Update, 6/1/06.)

Senate Judiciary

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