

March 6, 2019

The Honorable Bud Estes, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
Statehouse, Room 136-E  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Estes:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for SB 218 by Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 218 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 218 would amend Sheldon's law to include duly ordained ministers of religion as mandatory reporters of suspicion that a child has been harmed as a result of physical, mental, emotional abuse, neglect or sexual abuse.

Estimated State Fiscal Effect				
	FY 2019 SGF	FY 2019 All Funds	FY 2020 SGF	FY 2020 All Funds
Revenue	--	--	--	--
Expenditure	--	--	\$128,274	\$128,274
FTE Pos.	--	--	2.00	2.00

The Department for Children and Families (DCF) estimates that SB 218 would increase the volume of reports to the Kansas Protection Report Center by 2.0 percent annually and DCF would need to increase staffing proportionally. The Department would need \$128,274 for FY 2020 and \$126,603 for FY 2021 from the State General Fund for salaries, fringe benefits and other operating costs for an additional 2.00 Protection Specialist FTE positions.

DCF also assumes SB 218 would increase the workload for DCF child investigative staff. While data shows 60.0 percent of all reports are assigned for investigation, it is anticipated that

many of these calls will duplicate other calls. Therefore, DCF estimates an increase in investigations would not be significant and could be absorbed within current budget resources.

SB 218 does not address reporting requirements for this new category of mandatory reporter and, as such, would be counted in the other mandated reporter grouping. However, if reporting clergy as a separate group is intended, systems updates would be necessary creating additional costs. The expense of systems updates is unknown and therefore a precise fiscal effect cannot be determined. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 218 is not reflected in *The FY 2020 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. L. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L".

Larry L. Campbell  
Director of the Budget

cc: Jackie Aubert, Children & Families