



CENTER FOR THE RIGHTS  
OF ABUSED CHILDREN

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 21, 2023**

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### **Kansas Governor Laura Kelly Signs Foster Care Bill of Rights**

**Topeka, KS.** - Today, **Kansas Governor Laura Kelly** signed House Bill 2024, sponsored by the Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care, extending basic rights to over 6,000 abused and neglected children living in foster care.

"Abused and neglected children in Kansas have brighter futures today," said Darcy Olsen, CEO of the Center for the Rights of Abused Children. "We were privileged to work with leaders in Kansas on the Representative Gail Finney Memorial Foster Care Bill of Rights."

This new law guarantees abused and neglected children the right to live with their siblings, to visit family, and to live with family and kin whenever possible. The reform also supports the relatives, kin, and foster families who open their homes to children by guaranteeing their access to vital information, participation in case planning, and consideration as a placement option.

What sets Kansas's foster care bill of rights apart from others across the country is that the provisions are enforceable. The new law grants a child or legal guardian the ability to petition the judge in their case to remedy violated rights.

In one of the Center for the Rights of Abused Children's recent court cases, a young woman aged out of foster care at age 18. Only after discharge, she learned she was never given transitional resources that would have helped her afford housing and avoid incarceration. This reform gives The Center for the Rights of Abused Children will continue to work with Kansas policymakers to provide the right to counsel for all abused and neglected children, so they have a meaningful way to hold the system accountable for the rights established by this reform.

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**About The Center for the Rights of Abused Children:** The Center for the Rights of Abused Children fights for better futures for America's abused children with a pro bono Children's Law Clinic, common-sense reforms and public interest litigation. Join our life-saving work to end violence against children today. To learn more, visit: [thecenterforchildren.org](http://thecenterforchildren.org).

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