

Testimony Prepared for the  
**House Human Services Committee**

March 6, 2023

By: Dennis Meier Three Rivers Human Service Zone Director

**SB 2257: Relating to the development of a Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children.**

My name is Dennis Meier, I am Director in the Three Rivers Human Service Zone. I am here today to provide testimony in support of SB 2257, to develop a task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children by creating a comprehensive statewide approach to address this highly important issue. It is the request of the Zone Director Association, that we have at least one representative on this task force.

Human Service Zones provide child protection services to this increasingly vulnerable population. A significant portion of the mandated services we provide are to children and their families, focusing on child safety, permanency, and well-being.

Human Service Zones are charged with providing services to children who have been victims of abuse, neglect, as well as those who are exhibiting disruptive behaviors such a truancy and running away. Sexual abuse of children is a persistent issue that human service zones contend with every day. It is the opinion of the Zone Director Association, we have a plethora of knowledge, experience, and expertise that could enhance the overall effectiveness of this taskforce.

Please accept my testimony in support of SB 2257 with the addition of zone director representation. I stand for any questions you may have. Thank you.