1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-193 2 REQUESTING THAT THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-3 EIGHTH ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REFER TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE 4 5 ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY 6 OF SEEKING A GRANT FOR ARKANSAS PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL 7 TITLE IV-E WAIVERS (THE KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM). 8 9 WHEREAS, Section 26 of Act 937 of 2011 required the Department of 10 Workforce Services to prepare a study to determine the best and most appropriate way to address the financial needs of grandparents raising 11 12 grandchildren through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) 13 Block Grant Program; and 14 15 WHEREAS, the study concludes that currently, the TANF budget and 16 reserve fund (carry forward fund) does not allow for a new program to be 17 funded and sustained. However, alternative funding streams are offered, 18 specifically the new federal Title IV-E waivers (the Kinship Guardianship 19 Assistance Program) under the Child and Family Services Improvement and 20 Innovation Act; and 21 22 WHEREAS, at present, many states already offer subsidized guardianship 23 assistance in some form with all those programs working to promote lasting 24 family relationships for children with the goals of improving the lives of 25 the children and of bringing them out of foster care and into permanent 26 families; and 27 28 WHEREAS, Arkansas grandparents who are raising their grandchildren 29 often need financial assistance to maintain an optimal home life; and 30 31 WHEREAS, participation in the federal Title IV-E waivers (the Kinship 32 Guardianship Assistance Program) would provide support for those grandparents 33 already raising their grandchildren and would allow grandparents who cannot 34 presently afford to raise their grandchildren to bring those children into a 35 loving home; and 36

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I.S.P. 2011-193

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           WHEREAS,
                      Arkansas's participation in the federal Title IV-E waivers
 2
     (the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program) could provide significant
 3
     assistance in improving the lives of Arkansas's children,
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    NOW THEREFORE,
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     BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH
 7
     GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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           THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council of the Eighty-Eighth Arkansas
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     General Assembly refer to the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and
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     Labor a study of the feasibility of seeking a grant for Arkansas
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     participation in the federal Title IV-E waivers (the Kinship Guardianship
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     Assistance Program).
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     Respectfully submitted,
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     Senator Mary Anne Salmon
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     District 31
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    By: MGF/JLC
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