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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Sebelius To Sign Ceremonial Grandparents as Caregivers Act

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) The Sedgwick County Department on Aging and Central Plains Area Agency on Aging (CPAAA) announces Governor Kathleen Sebelius' ceremonial signing of the "Grandparents as Caregivers Act" at the **Northeast Senior Center, 2121 E. 21 St., Wichita, 1:30 p.m. on July 28th**. Grandparents acting as caregivers of children under 18 years of age is on the rise in our area, primarily in Sedgwick County, where the largest population (64,481 adults age 60 years and over) of older adults in Kansas reside.

The "Grandparents as Caregiver Act" was signed by Governor Sebelius on May 23, 2006. This Act states that a grandparent (or other relative caregiver) 50 years of age and older caring for a grandchild under 18 years will have access to the following benefits if they meet financial criteria: income less than 130% of the federal poverty level. Beginning January 1, 2007 benefits will include reimbursement for grandparents in the program for the cost of care of the grandchild in the amount of \$200 per grandchild per month, but not to exceed a total of \$600 per month. To access this benefit, grandparents should contact their local Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) office.

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As explained in a joint report completed by Kansas Action for Children and American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) of Kansas, “The number of Kansas children residing in households where grandparents are the main caregivers increased by 43 percent between 1990 and 2000, an increase much higher than the national rate of 30 percent.” The report also indicated approximately 29,000 children under age 18 are living in grandparent households. This means that 17,873 Kansas grandparents and 3,303 Wichita grandparents, are providing daily care for their grandchildren.

“The ‘Grandparents as Caregivers Act’ is a great way to help our older citizens who are caring for grandchildren,” said Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Ben Sciortino. “We applaud those grandparents who are giving what they can to help.”

For answers on aging or information about services available to older adults call the Sedgwick County Department on Aging and the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging at 660-5120 or (800) 367-7298 or visit us online at www.sedgwickcounty.org.

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