

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2021

January 30, 2023

Good afternoon, Chairman Owens, and Members of the Committee,

I am Marissa Woodmansee, Director of the 20th Judicial District Juvenile Services and I am also speaking on behalf of the Kansas Community Corrections Association (KCCA).

Community corrections agencies are thirty-one statutorily mandated programs in each part of the state, governed by county commissions and community advisory boards for both adult and juvenile offenders. They provide cost-effective community-based supervision of moderate- to high-risk youth and adults in the community as an alternative to incarceration.

We are testifying in support of House Bill 2021 because we believe the bill fosters greater communication between state agencies to better coordinate, determine, and fund the programs, services, and sanctions for juvenile offenders and children in need of care. The bill should also maximize resources and services through the evidence-based practices fund. Additional providers and families of juvenile offenders will also become eligible to access needed treatment dollars.

Among my specific points to note in HB 2021, we favor the opportunity to use short-term detention when necessary, including for technical violations. We also support the courts having the ability to extend overall case length limits as needed due to the non-compliance of the youth. This strengthens the court's ability to ensure compliance with programs and interventions aimed at behavior change.

We support House Bill 2021 and encourage you to advance it.

I am happy to take questions at the appropriate time.