

Proponent Testimony on HB 2667
House Federal & State Affairs Committee
Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the Committee,

I am here to express KDADS strong support for HB 2667, which proposes to increase the cap on the Lottery Vending Machine revenue allocated for crisis stabilization and accredited Clubhouses. This bill represents a crucial step towards addressing the pressing needs of individuals experiencing mental health crises in Kansas. HB 2667 adds \$4M to the annual transfer from the state revenues of the Lottery Vending Machines. \$3M for crisis services and \$1M for accredited Clubhouses. In total this would raise the annual transfer from \$12M to \$16M.

HB 2667 offers a practical and sustainable solution by tapping into existing revenue streams generated by Lottery Vending Machines to fund essential services for those in crisis and individuals that are seeking to live independently in our communities.

Crisis stabilization and accredited Clubhouses play pivotal roles in providing immediate support and long-term rehabilitation for individuals grappling with mental health challenges. By increasing the cap on Lottery Vending Machine revenue directed towards these programs, HB 2667 will ensure that more resources are available to meet the growing demand for mental health services.

Accreditation by Clubhouse International is a credential which affirms that a program is in fact operating as a Clubhouse and is in substantial compliance with the International Standards for Clubhouse Programs. The Clubhouse International model offers people living with mental illness opportunities for friendship, employment, housing, education and access to medical and psychiatric services in a single caring and safe environment – this social and economic inclusion reverses the alarming trends of higher suicide, hospitalization and incarceration rates associated with mental illness.

Furthermore, investing in crisis stabilization and accredited Clubhouses not only helps individuals in crisis but also benefits our state. By providing effective interventions and support systems, we can reduce the strain on emergency services, prevent unnecessary hospitalizations, and promote overall community well-being.

I urge you to consider the positive impact that HB 2667 can have on Kansans and to support its passage. By prioritizing mental health funding and utilizing innovative approaches like this bill supports with increased funding, we can create a more compassionate and resilient society for all.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and allowing the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Andy Brown
Deputy Secretary of Programs
Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services