



February 19, 2024

Tammy Wallin  
President, KAIMH

Proponent [Verbal/Written-Only] Testimony on SB 489  
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Chair Gossage and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Nursery Program for Incarcerated Moms (SB 489). KAIMH's mission to advance the field of infant and early childhood mental health. This includes promoting and advocating for public policies that advance the importance of social and emotional development of infants and young children.

The importance of the mother child relationship is well documented in research. The impact for both the child and the mother extends beyond the child's early years well into the child's success as an adult as well as the mother's future success, most significantly in the area of reduced recidivism.

KAIMH believes that a nursery program at the Topeka Correctional Facility offers much in terms of breaking generational cycles of poverty and mental health issues. This type of program leads to better mental health outcomes for both and better longer term developmental outcomes — including reduced criminal justice involvement-- for children.

In closing the Kansas Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health strongly supports the Nursery Program for Incarcerated Moms (SB 489).

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony with you today. Feel free to contact me with any questions at [twallin04@gmail.com](mailto:twallin04@gmail.com) .

Sincerely,

*Tamara Wallin*

Tammy Wallin

President

Kansas Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health