



**KANSAS APPLESEED**  
*Justice for all.*

*Testimony of Benet Magnuson  
Executive Director for the Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice  
Before the Kansas House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice*

**REGARDING HOUSE BILL 2454**

FEBRUARY 12, 2018

My name is Benet Magnuson; I am the executive director of the Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to the belief that Kansans, working together, can build a state full of thriving, inclusive, and just communities.

Similar to the state’s decision to change the definition of a speedy trial in 2014, House Bill 2454 seeks to increase logistical expediency but reduce procedural protections. As this committee heard from conferees on House Bill 2535 earlier this month, the state’s changes to the definition of a speedy trial seem to have created negative unintended consequences. Kansas Appleseed urges caution and additional research regarding House Bill 2454 to reduce the risk of similarly unintended negative effects on the juvenile justice system.

For example, House Bill 2454 would expand videoconferencing for juvenile court hearings, and considerable research has concluded that “videoconferencing generally decreases the quality of juvenile court hearings, presents insurmountable barriers to effective assistance of counsel, harms attorney-client relationships and confidentiality, and leads to worse outcomes for youth.”<sup>1</sup>

Respectfully submitted,

Benet Magnuson  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> National Juvenile Defender Center “Memorandum re: Videoconferencing Research Summary” 2016. Available online at <https://www.KansasAppleseed.org/VideoHearings.html>