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Testimony to the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
In Opposition to HB2484
February 3, 2020

Chairman Jennings and Committee Members,

Our associations oppose HB2484 which would increase good time credit from 15% or 20% to 50% of the sentence. This change is very dramatic, and in our opinion very excessive. There appears to be no consideration allowed for the seriousness of the crime, as in the current statutes, or for the victims. This flies in the face of truth in sentencing which was one of the goals of the sentencing grids.

While we agree good time credits can provide an incentive for completing programs and help encourage good conduct in the prisons, we question if this increase would really add any additional incentives. Instead this bill appears to be aimed more at a wholesale across the board decrease in sentencing for the sake of prison beds. This method of reduces prison population deviates from what we hear so often about focusing prison space on violent crimes because this proposal reduces sentences for violent crimes, non-violent crimes and drug crimes equally.

We also believe this drastic change in sentencing is premature. As you all know, Kansas currently has a Criminal Justice Reform Commission looking at issues like this. We should let them finish their work and perhaps other ideas may develop that prove to be more victim supportive.

We oppose passage of HB2484.

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