



Senate Judiciary Committee

Testimony Neutral of Senate Bill 3

January 26, 2021

Chair Warren and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stuart Little and I am the lobbyist for 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 instead of prison for adult and juvenile offenders with lower severity level offenses (although the offenders are increasingly more severe and high-risk). The courts and sentencing guidelines determine whether an adult offender is assigned to regular probation (through the courts) or intensive supervise probation with graduated sanctions in a community corrections program. Juveniles are sent to community corrections by district courts through the juvenile offender placement matrix. Some agencies also serve as intake and assessment. The Kansas Community Corrections Association is the voluntary association comprised of twenty-eight community corrections agencies.

We are neutral on Senate Bill 3 because of one funding issue. There are community corrections programs after reviewing the bill and discussions with local DAs, who report they may assume a portion or all of the supervision work for the diversion program. Every community corrections program that adds supervision needs resources to adequately and safely do their work. We suggest the committee consider a means to proportionally distribute the supervision fee funds collected from participants based on supervision agency. The funds could be proportioned statutorily or by guidance added to the memorandum of understanding language in section 2 (d) (5). Some of your local community corrections agencies will be supervising some portion of these diversion participants and we support an equitable distribution of the resources to cover costs.

Otherwise, we support the current SB 123 treatment program and expansion to the diversion population in Senate Bill 3.

I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.