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House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2337

March 13, 2019

Chairman Jennings and Members of the Committee,

I appear today on behalf of 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 support House Bill 2337 because it shifts the KDOC funding formula for adult community corrections in your communities to a structured and scientifically based formula that accounts for the latest and evolving best practices to guide how the State should wisely invest tax dollars. The State funds the local intensive supervised probation programs in your communities. Our offenders are too high risk for regular probation but their criminal conviction is not serious enough to send them to state prison. They are, therefore, subject to much more intensive supervised services including high-frequency and off-hour home and work visits, substance testing, in addition to more intensive services.

That, at the least, is the ideal. Local courts and prosecutors may have their own unique customs to address offenders' services. Local county commissions have varied levels of investment in support for community programs depending upon where and when you enter the system.

The funding formula has been changed only rarely over the last two decades. The latest and current reiteration sets goals that are not not always and uniformly achievable and failure to attain abstract goals does not mean failure. For the last several years the Community

Corrections Advisory Committee and the Kansas Department of Corrections have raised the issue of using more scientifically based, varied, and measureable means to evaluation community corrections accomplishment of goals exist. House Bill 2337 will benefit the community corrections agencies in your communities because it is realistic, rooted to science and change over time, utilizing the best practices of the field as they evolve to ensure funding is tied to real performance and the outcomes we expect for offenders for whom the taxpayers are providing treatment and supervision.

We have been seeking House Bill 2237 for years and welcome its passage.

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