



**KANSAS**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
**COUNTIES**

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Testimony of the Kansas Association of Counties to the  
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
Proponent Testimony on SB 407 • March 11, 2020

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer testimony regarding SB 407, which would require the Kansas department of aging and disability services to operate acute psychiatric inpatient beds for children in Hays and Garden City.

Mental health is a critical part of both public safety and public health. For too long, mental health crises have utilized the corrections system, rather than being treated through targeted programs. This need is especially severe in western Kansas, where there is a lack of treatment facilities.

Adding treatment facilities in both southwestern and northwestern Kansas can go a long way to addressing this need. While this is not a step that will solve every problem, this will provide a much needed treatment option in those areas of the state. KAC supports this bill, and would encourage the committee to recommend it favorably for passage, with the necessary funding to implement this initiative.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Jay Hall  
Kansas Association of Counties

