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Neutral Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary on HB 2527

January 24, 2022

Chairman Patton, Vice Chair Ralph, Ranking Member Carmichael, and Members of the Committee:

Our testimony on HB2527 is neutral. We are not opposed to the bill, but we are concerned about the practical application. Current law allows law enforcement to place a Child in Need of Care (CINC) with a shelter facility designated by the court, court services officer, juvenile intake and assessment worker, licensed attendant care center, juvenile crisis intervention center after written authorization by a community mental health center, or other person, if the CINC cannot be placed with a parent or guardian.

Research of our records over the last 3-years show that of cases we responded to of a CINC related nature 41% of children in need of care were placed with a parent, guardian, or other responsible family member. The other children were placed with various other facilities. Placement with a court services officer was rare but it has happened.

Our concern is that in a time of already strained resources, removing a resource for placement could adversely impact both the CINC and the sheriff's office. There have been times when no placement option could be found for several hours. This keeps a deputy off the road and unable to respond to other calls for service.

Our request is that you consider this factor as you work the bill.

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