



**TESTIMONY OF
Sarah LaFrenz, President
Robert Choromanski, Executive Director
KANSAS ORGANIZATION OF STATE EMPLOYEES**

**IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2551
HOUSE CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

FEBRUARY 12, 2018

Chairman Jennings and Honorable Members of the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee, thank you for affording us the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2551.

As the President and Executive Director of the Kansas Organization of State Employees (KOSE), we would like to thank Representatives Deere, Ellis, Eplee, Karleskint and Pittman for bringing this bill forward and offer our support for House Bill 2551. This bill would prohibit the outsourcing or privatization of any operations or facilities of any correctional institution or juvenile correctional facility and allow existing contracts to be renewed.

KOSE supports this bill as it is important to maintaining the professionalization of state services within the Kansas Department of Corrections. KOSE has many correctional officers, counselors, facilities maintenance specialists, and administrative assistants that do a fine job of making the state prison facilities run in a professional manner under trying circumstances working long hours for little pay. State employees are consummate professionals when it comes to doing the people's business from ensuring safe water quality, safe highways, children living in safe homes, the well-being of the mentally ill, and so much more.

We have seen the serious consequences that come with privatizing state services. Seventy missing foster care children, which is unacceptable and unforgiveable. A privatized state medicaid system fraught with problems and numerous corporate roadblocks that have needlessly delayed or denied critical medical services for some of our most vulnerable citizens, And, a struggling child support system that has fallen behind and where the collection of the amount of child support arrears are now nowhere near the amount before this service was privatized. That is why legislation such as this is so important.

On behalf of the Kansas Organization of State Employees, we thank the committee for holding hearings on this important topic and encourage you to adopt HB 2551.

The Kansas Organization of State Employees (KOSE) is a union for executive branch state employees, and the largest union of state employees in Kansas. All non-supervisory, non-confidential employees in the executive branch of Kansas state government (exclusive of higher education) are eligible to join KOSE. KOSE is local 300 - dually affiliated with both AFT and AFSCME. info@koseunion.org