

Stuart J. Little, Ph.D.
Little Government Relations, LLC

House Judiciary Committee

Testimony Neutral of House Bill 2292

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Chairman Patton 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 House Bill 2292 because we cannot fully endorse expanding demands on the system without funds to pay for supervision and for treatment in the Senate Bill 123 treatment program services. Regarding supervision, community corrections agencies have concerns that the number of offenders who will fail at court services supervision and will require intensive supervised probation. Those offenders will increase the community corrections caseload without funding. Regarding the SB 123 treatment program, there are no margins or savings to cover adding more participants. Overall funding has declined from over \$8.0 million to close to \$6.0 million while demand and costs increase. House Bill 2292 is symbolic of the great success of the Senate Bill 123 treatment instead of incarceration policy set twenty years ago. The program works by treating offenders and diverting them from prison. However, that success drives the interest in expanding the program. Expansion of the number of offenders in the program only works well when it is accompanied by expended funding to treat offenders and supervise them or we eventually put the program at risk. The only result is swift and expensive increases in incarceration costs.

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