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Senate Judiciary Committee

Proponent on Senate Bill 19

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Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stuart Little and I am the lobbyist for the Kansas Community Corrections Association (KCCA). We are proponents of Senate Bill 19.

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 and seven affiliated groups. I am here today representing these thirty-five member agencies.

We support Senate Bill 19 because it codifies the common practice and necessary collaboration between the courts, court services, and community corrections agencies that provide intensive supervised probation. The presentence investigation report is an essential tool sharing critical information that helps protect public safety and facilitate successful completion of supervision.

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