



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COURT SERVICES OFFICERS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE
Representative Stephen Owens, Chair

February 1, 1:30 p.m.
Room 546-S

Kevin Waring, Chief Court Services Officer, 10th Judicial District
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL No. 2601

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 2601. I am the Chief Court Services Officer of the 10th Judicial District in Johnson County. I provide today's testimony as the Legislative Chair of the Kansas Association of Court Services Officers (KACSO), which currently represents over 400 Court Services Officers across Kansas.

KACSO is supportive of the proposed legislation contained within House Bill 2601. Court Services Officers (CSOs) supervise persons convicted of driving under the influence (DUI) as ordered by District Courts based on the risk and needs assessment. Court Services utilized the mandated DUI care coordination prior to the 2022 Legislative Session passage of House Bill 2377. The care coordination mandated that persons on supervision for a 3rd or subsequent DUI receive evaluation and care coordination. The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services reported that during the period of July 2011, through December 2023 there were 6,673 persons who received care coordination and monitoring services through the multiple DUI program. Of those reported, only 615 (9%) were served more than one time due to an additional DUI. Considering the success shown with this program, KACSO is supportive to again mandate the use of DUI care coordination.

KACSO would also request additional consideration of three issues that we believe, if addressed, would help with the implementation and understanding of House Bill 2601, if passed:

The mission of the Kansas Association of Court Services Officers is to challenge, educate, support and advocate for the membership by promoting fellowship and professionalism, providing relevant training opportunities and maintaining communication with all members. The organization will further this mission by encouraging collaboration with our Court Services Officers and professional organizations and by recognizing member excellence.

An American Probation and Parole Association Affiliate

1. Currently HB2601 does not address funding. KACSO is supportive for the care coordination to again receive state funding. The ability to remove financial barriers for persons being required to obtain evaluation and treatment is seen as a factor in the program success.
2. Along with the removal of care coordination in House Bill 2377, the DUI penalty was increased from a non-grid, nonperson felony to a severity level 6 nonperson felony. The standard period of supervision for a level 6 felony is 24 months of probation. KACSO would support care coordination funding for up to 24 months, as determined by the approved care coordination and monitoring providers in the state.
3. KACSO would request consideration to clear up language in K.S.A. 8-1567 subsection (b)(1)(E) (3). Specifically, removing the language regarding serving imprisonment in jail since felony DUI is now a grid offense and would be served in the Department of Corrections.

Please consider this bill and additional considerations favorably. I am happy to answer questions.

Kevin Waring
KACSO Legislative Chair