

HOUSE CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE
Representative Russ Jennings, Chairman

KANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION
Scott M. Schultz, Executive Director
January 28, 2021

Proponent Testimony – HB 2083

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in favor of this legislation on behalf of the Kansas Sentencing Commission. This bill amends the current enabling statute for the Sentencing Commission legislative membership.

Currently, the speaker of the house and the minority leader of the house each appoint one member. Similarly, the president of the senate and the minority leader of the senate each appoint one member for a total of four legislative members on the Commission.

The Commission proposes that the same authorities appoint the same number of current legislators (4), but members should be more specifically selected from the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice committee and the Senate Judiciary committee for the following reasons:

1. These are the committees in which the Commission regularly introduces bills and provides support daily during the legislative session. Membership in these committees express an interest in criminal justice, sentencing and public safety; and
2. While the Commission appreciates the service of all past and present legislative members, for logical reasons it is recommended that newly appointed members can better advocate or articulate the position of the Commission and as a result more fully provide thoughtful, efficient insight to these respective committees if they are members of the House Corrections and Senate Judiciary committees.

I appreciate your time and attention to the Kansas Sentencing Commission testimony, ask for your support, and would be happy to answer questions. Thank you.