



March 7, 2025

**Senate Way and Means Committee
Testimony on Kansas Sentencing Commission Budget**

Chairman Billinger and Members of the Committee.

The Behavioral Health Association of Kansas (BHAK) is the trade organization for substance use disorder treatment and behavioral health providers. BHAK believes in behavioral health access and funding for mental illness and substance use disorder treatment without regard to where a consumer seeks services. We appreciate the growing awareness of how substance use disorder affects every system including health care, employment, public safety, and child welfare, and we support your investment of resources to treat people.

We support the Kansas Sentencing Commission's budget that includes the \$1.1 million provider rate increases. We also support the Commission's request to enhance the amount to \$2.2 million.

Our members provide substance use disorder treatment services across Kansas. Our members serve Medicaid patients, federal block grant patients, and provide Senate Bill 123 treatment services. The Senate Bill 123 treatment program is an integral part of the system of treatment in Kansas for individuals who are uninsured. Additionally, the State and taxpayers benefit from the diversion of offenders from more expensive incarceration, while increasing the chances to not re-offend. For over two decades, the program has provided treatment services at a very affordable rate.

Additionally, non-profit drug and alcohol treatment providers face great challenges competing with governmental providers and for-profit entities. Rate increases help recruit and retain skilled staff in the current job market and provide treatment.

We support the agency's requested funding enhancement. I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Stuart J. Little, Ph.D.

Behavioral Health Association of Kansas

City on a Hill – Garden City

CKF Addiction Treatment - Salina

Seventh Direction - Wichita

DCCCCA - Lawrence

Higher Ground - Wichita

New Chance – Dodge City

New Dawn - Topeka

Burrell/Brightli - Olathe

Sims-Kemper - Topeka

Miracles - Wichita

Substance Abuse Center of Kansas – Sedgwick County

Heartland Regional Alcohol and Drug Assessment Center –

-Johnson County