

**Testimony of John C. Haas, Pawnee County Commissioner
Before the Judiciary Committee of the Kansas State Senate
March 10, 2011**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is John Haas and I serve as a County Commissioner Representing the 1st District of Pawnee County. I am here today to testify on Senate Bill 217. Pawnee County is the site of the Kansas Sexual Treatment Program located at the Larned State Hospital Complex. This bill deals with a problem which affects the entire population of Pawnee County.

That problem is the payment of court appointed attorney fees and other legal expenses which result from any K.S.A 60-1501 habeas corpus actions filed by patients of the Sexual Predator Program. At present Pawnee County must pay these fees because of recent Kansas Appellate Court decisions and an Attorney General's Opinion.

This creates a very large unfair tax burden on the taxpayers of Pawnee County. These habeas corpus actions are filed fairly often and could create a sizable unfair financial obligation on the citizens of Pawnee County. I therefore ask this committee to approve this bill.

I thank you Senator Owens for this opportunity to testify before your committee on behalf of the citizens of Pawnee County.

John C. Haas
Commissioner,
1st District Pawnee County