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- Mirror of Independence (620) 331-4854
- Mirror of Medicine Lodge (620) 213-1352
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February 14, 2012

The Honorable Tim Owens Senate Judiciary Committee KS State Capitol Bldg., Room 559-S Topeka, KS

RE: (Neutral) SB 368

Chairman Owens and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Good morning, my name is Beverly Metcalf. I am CEO at Mirror, Inc. in Newton, KS. Mirror is one of the major providers of the current SB 123 services in sixteen locations throughout the state of Kansas.

We are here today to provide a couple of informational points regarding the current provision of services. Since its inception, it is our belief that providing alternatives to incarceration through chemical dependency treatment has proven to be an cost effective measure for Kansas taxpayers and a life-changing alternative for program beneficiaries. Therefore, we highly support the continuation of these services.

The Kansas Sentencing Commission, local Community Corrections Agencies and local providers like Mirror, Inc. have successfully former partnerships as the original legislation dictated to provide successful local community alternatives to incarceration.

The current legislation, SB 368, proposes to introduce another level of offenders to be served under this sentencing alternative. We see no problem with the addition of those offenders to the pool of persons served. It is our understanding that funding for these new recipients would come from the elimination of treatment funding for offenders who have lower scores on substance abuse testing. SB 368 does not say those with lower scores can not seek treatment but would need to do so with their own resources. As a provider of services for over forty years, our experience says that those persons generally do not have personal resources to pay for treatment. Our concern is that, since many of these individuals may likely qualify for treatment services through SRS, an additional burden may be seen in an already over-taxed SRS treatment system.

Ideally, we would like to see funding available for the original population served as well as the new and additional population. We also believe this would give more latitude for local Community Corrections Agencies to collaborate with local providers in seeking the best benefit for those they supervise.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to stand for any questions.

Respectfully,

Beverly D. Metcalf, LAC

Mirror, Inc.
President/CEO