

Ray Roberts, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

Testimony on SB 434  
to  
The Senate Ways and Means Committee

By Ray Roberts  
Secretary  
Kansas Department of Corrections  
April 25, 2012

The Department of Corrections supports SB 434. SB 434 authorizes the Department of Corrections to purchase the St. Francis Boys' Home in Ellsworth, Kansas. The department would use the St. Francis Boys' Home as a minimum security correctional facility for 95 inmates. The estimated purchase price of the property is \$350,000. The department believes that renovation costs would be less than \$100,000. The facility would require a staff of 15. The annual operating cost for the property as a correctional facility is estimated to be \$1,037,601, substantially less than the annual cost of contract jail beds of \$1,387,000 (95 inmates x \$40 per day x 365 days). The funds for the purchase and operation of the St. Francis Boys' Home as a correctional facility would be from contract jail funds. The cost of renovation of the facility would be paid from the department's Correctional Institutions Building Fund Renovation and Repair appropriation. No additional funding beyond the Governor's budget recommendation would be necessary.

In addition to the economy of using the St. Francis Boys' Home as a correctional facility, the establishment of a minimum security satellite facility in close proximity to the Ellsworth Correctional Facility has significant operational benefits. The use of the former St. Francis Boys' Home as a minimum security correctional facility has the advantage of that facility being able to utilize the medical and food service resources of the Ellsworth Correctional Facility. Additionally, the security operations of both the proposed satellite minimum security facility and existing ECF facility would be enhanced. Security response teams from ECF would be readily available for deployment to the satellite facility and inmates from the satellite facility could be easily transferred to more secure segregation cells at ECF. The security of the existing ECF facility would also be enhanced. Currently, ECF minimum custody inmates assigned to outside work details are housed within the medium security perimeter of the ECF facility, resulting in an increase in traffic through the perimeter and potential for the introduction of contraband into a medium security facility. The removal of all minimum custody inmates from the ECF central unit would decrease the traffic through the medium security perimeter, increasing the security of that facility. Finally, the removal of minimum custody inmates from the existing ECF facility makes those cells available for the incarceration of medium security inmates from other KDOC facilities and contract jails. The department notes this proposal would aid in reducing the current shortage of medium security beds within the department.

The department urges favorable consideration of SB 434.