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GREG SMITH

Chairman Rhoades and members of the House Appropriations Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB 88. This bill provides much needed funding for the Children Advocacy Centers of Kansas. They service one of our most precious populations in Kansas – our children. Not just any children but those who have been subjected to abuse.

The good news is this bill requires no State General Fund expenditures. Monies come from a fee assessed against the convicted offender. This fee is used to defer expenses for forensic interviews and other resources for the victim.

The bad news is the fee has been at \$100 for the last ten years and current law allows the judge the discretion to waive the fee. Take a look at the fiscal note and you will see the fee is rarely imposed. The bill would raise the fee to \$400; roughly the cost of a forensic exam.

An amendment was added in the Senate Judiciary Committee when we worked the bill to make the fee mandatory, rather than discretionary. The bill, in its current form, reflects both the \$400 fee and the amendment describe.

Others here can speak more to the benefits the CAC program provides so I will yield to them. In closing I would ask that you pass the bill favorably out of committee.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Smith