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Sam Brownback, Governor

Testimony on HB 2618
to
The House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

By Johnnie Goddard
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Kansas Department of Corrections
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The Department of Corrections supports HB 2618. HB 2618 amends K.S.A. 75-5275 expanding the market of persons who may purchase prison made goods. Currently, Kansas Correctional Industries may sell prison made goods to governmental entities, state employees for personal use, churches and nonprofit corporations organized for charitable purposes. HB 2618 would allow prison made goods to be sold to the contractors, vendors and suppliers of governmental agencies, Kansas residents and businesses and inmates.

HB 2618 adopts the efficiency recommendations made by Alvarez & Marsal for Kansas Correctional Industries. While A&M found that KCI participants exhibit an 18% recidivism rate which compares favorably to the 35% observed for non-participants, the program is not utilized to its full capacity due to its limited customer base. (Alvarez & Marsal, January 19, 2016 p. 153). A&M recommended expansion of the KCI customer base to more efficiently use KCI's capacity while at the same time increase the number of inmates who benefit from productive job experience and skills while promoting public safety through a lower recidivism rate. A&M recommended providing KCI statutory authority to:

- Sell to contractors that have state contracts
- Sell KCI products through the commissary to inmates
- Sell to businesses and residents of the state of Kansas

(Id at page 154). HB 2618 adopts these recommendations.

The department urges favorable consideration of HB 2618.