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Bob L. Corkins, Director

Sam Brownback, Governor

February 12, 2015

Senate Judiciary Committee
Kansas Statehouse, Room 346-S
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Testimony of Dir. Bob Corkins on SB 149 – OAH is Proponent
Hearing scheduled for February 18, 2015

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) is eager to embark on the reform enabled by SB 149 and encourages your support for its enactment. Compared to the present system, the proposed administrative process for giving fair hearing to the appeals of persons civilly committed as sexually violent predators will be more impartial, more timely, and more cost effective. OAH's professionalism and efficiency in conducting fair hearings is a service that currently benefits 27 state agencies as well as the parties of nearly 4,000 cases that are referred to us each year for adjudication.

OAH was consulted in the drafting of SB 149 and fully supports its proposal. We have also submitted our input for the bill's fiscal impact which is before you. The opinion of OAH is that the bill's delineated plan would embrace and assure the Due Process rights set forth in the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act. OAH has cultivated its legal reputation for upholding procedural fairness since operating as a division of the Department of Administration in 1998 and then becoming a stand-alone state agency in 2009. This evolution and growth is a direct result of OAH impartiality and efficiency, benefits that we would be pleased to provide for the local governments and appellants affected by this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob L. Corkins, Director
Office of Administrative Hearings