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MITCH HOLMES

33RD DISTRICT

BARTON, EDWARDS, HODGEMAN, KIOWA, LANE, NESS,
PAWNEE, PRATT, RICE, RUSH, SCOTT & STAFFORD COUNTIES

Testimony on SB185

2/23/2015

Proponent

SB185 is a re-introduction of SB400 from 2014. SB400 was allowed to die because its contents were inserted in a 2-year proviso in last year's budget. It is designed to provide relief to a small population that is carrying a disproportionate burden created by the Sexual Predator Treatment Program (SPTP) located in Larned State Hospital.

Those who are civilly committed to this program are there because they have completed their sentence in the Dept of Corrections, but are still a danger to society and cannot be released to the general population. They are evaluated to be the worst of the worst.

Many of them continue their violent behavior and direct it against staff and against each other, which results in local law enforcement being called in to make arrests. They then have to go through the local court system while being held by the county. To add to the complexity and expense, Pawnee County does not have the facilities to keep the predators segregated from the other detainees. So the predators must be transported to other counties that have larger, more secure jail facilities. The Pawnee County sheriff has, at times, been responsible for as many as five detainees from SPTP simultaneously.

These predators are treated like local residents in the way their detainment is funded. In other words, the expense of detainment is borne by the local taxpayers. The citizens of Pawnee County (pop. < 7,000) suddenly become responsible to feed, house, and provide medical care for a resident of SPTP who is not from the local area. However, KDADS still lays claim to them by putting them in a "civil hold", which essentially says they must be returned to STPT after a trial unless convicted of another crime and sent back to Corrections.

SB 185 makes KDADS responsible for the expense of housing, feeding and medical care while the patient is detained outside the SPTP facility on a civil hold. The state, rather than a single county, will then share in the expense for these criminals who are committed from the entire state. I ask your support for SB 185.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Holmes".