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Senate Judiciary Committee

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2454

Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stuart Little and I am the lobbyist for the Kansas Community Corrections Association (KCCA).

Community corrections agencies are thirty-one statutorily mandated programs in each part of the state, governed by county commissions and community advisory boards for both adult and juvenile offenders. They provide cost-effective community-based supervision instead of prison for adult and juvenile offenders with lower severity level offenses (although the offenders are increasingly more severe and high-risk). The courts and sentencing guidelines determine whether an adult offender is assigned to regular probation (through the courts) or intensive supervise probation with graduated sanctions in a community corrections program. Juveniles are sent to community corrections by district courts through the juvenile offender placement matrix. Some agencies also serve as intake and assessment.

The Kansas Community Corrections Association is the voluntary association comprised of twenty-eight community corrections agencies and seven affiliated groups. I am here today representing these thirty-five member agencies.

We support House Bill 2454. The bill originally waived the requirements for the fourteen-day detention hearing. Provided the court approved a waiver, the bill reduced a portion of administrative burden related to the recent changes in the juvenile offender system. The House amendment to the bill regarding the 14-day hearing is not supported but the continuation of the videoconferencing option will address some of the concerns in the field. We have no opinion on the other changes in the House amendment.

I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.