

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Representative Fred Patton, Chairman

KANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION
Scott M. Schultz, Executive Director
March 7, 2019

Proponent Testimony – SB 19 (Written Only)

On behalf of the Kansas Sentencing Commission, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in favor of this legislation. This bill allows access of normally confidential records produced by Court Services during the ordinary course of probation client supervision to several entities that provide probation supervision. We support the Office of Judicial Administration in their efforts to clarify this part of the law.

The Commission recommends passage of this bill because the entities proposed to be added work closely with Court Services daily to provide seamless probation services. In the Commission’s research, it was determined that the “community correctional services” language found in the amendment does not fall under the statutory definition of the department of corrections. As a result, the statute does not currently authorize the transfer of risk/needs assessments or drug and alcohol reports to a probation officer with Community Corrections. This is problematic in that offenders routinely fail on Court Services supervision and require more intensive supervision with Community Corrections. Failure to allow agencies such as Community Corrections to access confidential assessments will undoubtedly cause costly duplication of services and reduced offender success due to poor resource management. Codifying this addition in statute is in the best interests of the system to benefit public safety.

I appreciate your time and attention to the Kansas Sentencing Commission testimony and ask for your support. Thank you.