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SENATE CHAMBER

DAVID B. HALEY
SENATOR
DISTRICT 4
WYANDOTTE COUNTY

BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE / FEBRUARY 20, 2019

RE : SB 119. Encouraging Judicial Districts to Establish & Utilize Specialty Courts; Supreme Ct. Rules

SUPPORT

Chair Wilborn; Vice Chair Rucker; Ranking Member Miller & Fellow Members of the Judiciary Committee :

Thank you for having a hearing on this proposed measure to which specifically encourage establishment of mental health and/or drug/alcohol addiction "specialty" courts. I hope we can agree on this language, and any relevant potential amendment(s), and work the bill to pass it favorably to our Committee of the Whole before turnaround.

SB 119 will help codify into law existing special rules already promulgated by the Kansas Supreme Court. With these practices in place, judicial districts will be better equipped to screen and adjudicate persons who may not be found to be "criminal" but only wrong-doing due to a diagnosed, and interim treatable, persistent, pervasive mental illness or substance addiction. Let's hear from the experts here to follow.

The benefits to those persons, our court system and our jails and prisons are obvious and innumerable.

Again, I urge your support and will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Haley, J.D. (WY)

Ranking Member / Senate Judiciary (2004-2018)

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

JUDICIARY
PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE
ETHICS, ELECTIONS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

JOINT COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

HEALTH POLICY OVERSIGHT
STATE TRIBAL RELATIONS CHILDREN'S ISSUES
CORRECTIONS & JUVENILE JUSTICE OVERSIGHT