

Good morning, Madam Chairwoman, Distinguished Members of the Committee,

My name is Gloria Geither, and I am the Deputy Secretary of Facility Management for the Kansas Department of Corrections. I am also the former warden at the Topeka Correctional Facility, and I started the Women's Activities and Learning Center there in 1990.

KDOC fully supports Senate Bill 489 to establish a nursery at the Topeka Correctional Facility with Senator O'Shea's amendments. We are committed to building a new unit specifically for this purpose in order to ensure the best care for both mother and child, and we intend to increase our staffing to allow the resident to continue her programs and work inside the facility while still allowing her to bond with her child.

We look forward to working with Senator O'Shea, the committee and legislature, and advocacy groups in order to accomplish this goal.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to comment. I will now take any questions from the committee.