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ADAM THOMAS
26TH DISTRICT

Thank You Chairwoman Concannon and Committee,

It has been a while since I last spoke to you about this issue, and it is an honor to be back with you to testify on HB 2189.

This bill was brought to us originally by the former mayor of Spring Hill, Steve Ellis, a licensed family attorney. He saw a need for change in the system to make sure we do not simply let a child age out of the system, and happily send them on their merry way.

HB 2189 would allow those who would normally age out of the system at 18 to reenter the system up to the age of 21.

The reason this bill is so important, is a lot of these kids end up moving out of the system, no direction, still trying to find themselves, and some end up with amazing stories to tell, and we celebrate those stories. Others, however, end up in a far different situation.

As we look at the high cost per inmate in our prison systems, at the expense of the taxpayers, we must consider alternative ways to help these kids stay on a path that leads to success in many scenarios, rather than simply throwing away the key and hoping they land on the right path. HB 2189 will do just that.

By providing the assistance laid out in HB 2189, these kids will have even more opportunities available to them, which in turn could change their lives for the good!

We owe it to our foster kids, and to the taxpayers, to ensure these kids have a solid chance at a good life.

I think the committee for it's effort in addressing this matter.

KS State Representative Adam Thomas
District 26