



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COURT SERVICES OFFICERS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE
Representative Stephen Owens, Chair

January 30, 1:30 p.m.
Room 546-S

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL No. 2021

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 2021. I am the Chief Court Services Officer in the 10th Judicial District in Johnson County. I am here today as the Legislative Chair of the Kansas Association of Court Services Officers (KACSO), which currently represents over 400 Court Services Officers across Kansas.

Court Services Officers (CSOs) provide court ordered supervision for youth in Kansas. This supervision may be under the jurisdiction of juvenile offender and/or child in need of care cases within the district court. This supervision is often very complex work that requires CSOs to work with the youth, family, treatment providers, and school representatives. The successful foundation of case management work requires CSOs to quickly respond to youth risks and needs. This response may look drastically different from one youth and family to the next.

KACSO is supportive of the proposed legislation contained within House Bill 2021, as it would benefit youth and families in Kansas with additional resources. Specifically, KACSO believes that creating the ability for youth to be assessed a risk and needs assessment to determine eligibility of youth from multiple state agencies and the judicial branch will increase efficiency in serving youth across multiple disciplines.

The mission of the Kansas Association of Court Services Officers is to challenge, educate, support and advocate for the membership by promoting fellowship and professionalism, providing relevant training opportunities and maintaining communication with all members. The organization will further this mission by encouraging collaboration with our Court Services Officers and professional organizations and by recognizing member excellence.

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Additionally, KACSO supports the ability for the court to extend case length limits and issue jail sanctions for technical or contempt of court violations. As noted earlier, CSOs supervise complex cases and work to promote success for each youth and family we work with. At times, progress can take time before a youth engages fully and makes progress on their supervision goals. Currently, CSOs are limited at times and must release youth from supervision prior to success being fully realized due to a case length limit. Giving the court the ability to extend when appropriate will help ensure that youth can continue with case supervision and monitoring to realize that success.

Currently CSOs utilize graduation responses when juvenile offender youth are found to have technical violations of supervision. Technical violations can range widely from very minor infractions to serious violations that may impact the youth and/or public safety. The ability for the court to issue detention sanctions for technical violations would be a valuable resource as part of the youth's supervision.

Please consider this bill favorably. I am happy to answer questions.

Kevin Waring
KACSO Legislative Chair