

House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
Testimony in Support of HB2741

February 13, 2024

Good afternoon, Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee,

I am Shelly Williams, Director of Riley County Community Corrections, serving both Riley & Clay County. Community corrections is a statutorily mandated program governed by county commissions and community advisory boards for both adult and juvenile offenders. Community Corrections provides cost-effective community-based supervision of moderate to high-risk youth and adults in the community as an alternative to incarceration.

I was fortunate to have sat on the Kansas Criminal Justice Reform Commission and the Standardized Terms & Conditions of Supervision Subcommittee. The Conditions of Supervision Subcommittee reviewed conditions of supervision from across the State, from Minnesota, Ohio and Missouri, and Parole Conditions of Release from the Kansas Prisoner Review Board. The Conditions of Supervision Subcommittee examined what Kansas did and did not have in current statute referencing best practice conditions. The subcommittee discovered there was no standardized format and no consistent general conditions of supervision across the State.

Parallel to the Subcommittee's work, the Council of State Governments facilitated focus groups with the Chiefs of Court Services and Community Corrections Directors, receiving unanimous support for standardizing general conditions of supervision and having one state-wide form/document. There was consensus among the Chiefs and Directors that it would be easier for courtesy supervision transfer of cases both for staff and clients if there were standardized general conditions of supervision in Kansas. Additionally, CSG reported that, "Conditions of supervision in Kansas do not meet best practice guidelines and cause inconsistencies in how agencies approach supervision."

As a director of one of the Community Corrections agencies in Kansas, and as a past member of the Kansas Criminal Justice Reform Commission, I support standardizing conditions of supervision in Kansas.