

House Bill No. 2070
Testimony for the Senate Committee on Judiciary
March 9, 2023

My name is Randy Regehr, and I'm the Director of Reno County Community Corrections and the President of the Kansas Community Corrections Association. I am testifying in support of House Bill 2070 because it improves access to substance abuse for more people assigned to supervision.

This is primarily an issue of how quickly a person on supervision can receive treatment for their addiction. Expanding SB123 treatment to more individuals with an addiction helps reduce the number of people being unsuccessful on supervision and going to prison. Whether sentenced under SB123 or not, people on probation are in the same treatment groups and receiving the same services. The primary difference is how long it takes to get services started. A person sentenced under SB123 can often get into inpatient treatment within two weeks. Most people on Community Corrections don't have insurance which means they have to wait two to four months for a State funded inpatient treatment bed. This bill will shorten wait times to access treatment for more people who are assigned to supervision.

Most people assigned to supervision with Community Corrections are addicted to illegal substances. This is not only true of people convicted of a drug crime, but also for many who are convicted of other felony offenses. SB123 treatment allows people to receive addiction treatment services much quicker than people convicted of other crimes. If a person on supervision doesn't get the needed addiction treatment quickly, they will continue to use drugs. Often this results in them absconding from supervision or being arrested for new crimes, or both. These are the primary factors in people being revoked to prison.

I am supportive of HB 2070 because I believe all people on probation who have a substance use disorder deserve quick access to the treatment they need to be successful. Expanding the number of people who can access SB123 will increase successes and help reduce revocations to prison. However, funding needs to be included both for treatment services and supervision. Otherwise, the delays will only increase.

Thank you,
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