



Proponent Testimony for HB 2114  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
March 16, 2023

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **HB 2114: renaming the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight in honor of Representative J. Russell (Russ) Jennings and requiring the committee to monitor the implementation of juvenile justice reforms.**

Russ and I were part of the same freshman class of lawmakers elected in 2012. He was a consummate statesman, but also my best friend under the dome. As so many others can attest, he was a tremendous mentor and coach. He brought a wealth of experience in government service, including time serving on the Kansas Children's Cabinet as an ex officio member during his tenure as head of the Juvenile Justice Authority, to the legislative process and Kansas is better off because of it. Indeed, the impact of his work has been recognized at the local, state, and national level. The major restructuring of the juvenile justice system in Kansas is central to his legacy. I can think of no more fitting way to remember him and pay tribute to his service than renaming the committee in his honor and ensuring it continues to play a role in the oversight of our juvenile justice system.

Although there is much more that can be said, I will stop here as the most enduring lesson Russ taught me was brevity! Thank you for allowing me to express my support for HB 2114.