



WICHITA
Children's Home

In support of HB 2779

Kansas House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

Thank you Committee for allowing me to speak to you in favor of HB 2779. The Wichita Children's Home is a 125 yr old child and family serving agency. We offer a shelter for law enforcement admissions and homeless and runaway youth, a mobile street outreach program that staffs the local SafePlace program, a transitional living program for 17 to 22 year olds, a resource center for runaway and homeless youth, and most recently a program funded by the Office of Violence against Women to provide services for 13 to 24 year olds who are victims of sexual assault. We see about 5,000 children and youth year. Unfortunately, because many highways come together in Wichita, our community is known as an originating site for the trafficking world. We have seen youth for many years who are victims of the domestic minor trafficking. We have seen these youth move in and out of programs because their needs are so difficult to address. So I am here to say thank goodness of this bill.

These youth need comprehensive treatment in order to come to terms with this horrific situation. They need help to reinvent themselves. This bill offers these victims a future through the funding of treatment and training. We stand ready to develop programs to help these young people receive the care that they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to Kansas citizens.

Sarah Robinson, Executive Director, Wichita Children's Home

March 13, 2012

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Committee
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