



Testimony of the Kansas Association of Counties to the
Senate Judiciary Committee

Proponent for SB 150 (Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators) • February 14, 2017

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 150, which addresses the financial responsibility of the counties for the commitment of predators under the Sexually Violent Predators Act (SVPA).¹ Currently, counties bear the cost of holding and treating predators under the SVPA.² SB 150 would add incarceration and medical care to the list of reimbursable expenses counties can seek from the State.³ Since Kansas passed the Sexually Violent Predators Act in the 90s, counties have expressed concern and distaste for the funding mechanics of the State program. We continue to ask that Kansas pays the bills for its program instead of leaving it for counties to seek reimbursement if funds are available. In the absence of this, KAC supports any improvements that might help our counties recoup expenses. We subsequently support SB 150.

The two new passages in SB 150 clarify that counties can seek reimbursement from either the detained individual or the State. This is a potential point of cost savings for what is a very expensive program. KAC will continue to support a change for Kansas to directly fund the Sexually Violent Predators Act. In the absence of this change, our counties support SB 150 and any other measures that help with the cost of treatment.

Respectfully,

Nathan Eberline
Kansas Association of Counties

¹ K.S.A. 59-29a04.

² *Id.*

³ Senate Bill 150 (2017).