

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 2549
Relating to mental health services; determinations of competency;
commitment for treatment; Larned state hospital
and Osawatomie state hospital catchment areas;**

**Presented to the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
By Kimberly M.J. Lynch, Chief Counsel
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services**

March 6, 2018

Chairwoman Schmidt and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to testify as a proponent on behalf of House Bill 2549 which amends the existing statutes, K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 22-3302, 22-3303, and 39-1602, relating to competency and restoration treatment and the state psychiatric hospital catchment areas.

Competency Evaluations and Restoration Treatment:

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) proposes changes to K.S.A. 22-3302 and 22-3303 to allow greater flexibility in the completion of forensic evaluations related to competency and restoration with the goal of reducing the bed availability list for the state psychiatric hospitals. These changes will allow defendants to be committed to any appropriate state psychiatric hospital, county or private institution for competency evaluation and restoration treatment.

For these reasons, KDADS respectfully requests this committee pass House Bill 2549. At this time, I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have regarding the bill.