

**House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
February 3, 2020**

**House Bill 2484
Testimony of the Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (KACDL)
Presented by Clayton J. Perkins
Proponent**

Dear Chairman Jennings and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in support of HB 2484, which would provide for 50% good time credit.

There are currently just over 10,000 people in Kansas' prisons. That means around 0.3% of all Kansans are in our prisons. Another way to think about it is that our prison population would be enough to make up just under half of a district in our House of Representatives. HB 2484 would be a very good start for getting our prison population problem under control. Because the benefits in reducing prison overcrowding are obvious, I would like to briefly highlight a few smaller details.

First, HB 2484 would only apply prospectively to crimes committed on or after July 1, 2020. This is an important consideration because it makes sure everyone will have fair notice of exactly who is covered. No one is caught with unfair surprise under this law. Both prosecutors and defense attorneys will be able to explain the law with certainty to those involved in the criminal justice system.

Second, I think it is important to consider that Kansas inmates still serve a lengthy term of postrelease supervision upon release. Particularly, those convicted of sexually violent crimes, which includes most of our sex offenses, serve lifetime postrelease supervision under K.S.A. 22-3717. Kansas inmates are not simply off the hook when they get out of prison.

Third, because good time credits do not apply to off-grid offenses, this change has no impact on those serving time for the most serious offenses. Our growing number of inmates serving life sentences is a separate, unique matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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