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House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

Testimony Neutral of House Bill 2470

February 6, 2020

Chairman Jennings and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stuart Little and I am the lobbyist for the Kansas Community Corrections Association (KCCA).

Community corrections agencies are thirty-one statutorily mandated programs in each part of the state, governed by county commissions and community advisory boards for both adult and juvenile offenders. They provide cost-effective community-based supervision instead of prison for adult and juvenile offenders with lower severity level offenses (although the offenders are increasingly more severe and high-risk). The courts and sentencing guidelines determine whether an adult offender is assigned to regular probation (through the courts) or intensive supervise probation with graduated sanctions in a community corrections program. Juveniles are sent to community corrections by district courts through the juvenile offender placement matrix. Some agencies also serve as intake and assessment.

The Kansas Community Corrections Association is the voluntary association comprised of twenty-eight community corrections agencies.

We are neutral on House Bill 2470 that requires the receiving jurisdiction and all parties to concur with the transfer of jurisdiction of a defendant who is on probation, under supervision by community corrections, or under a suspended sentence. It would also permit the transfer of supervision of offenders in a drug treatment program to another court while having the option of retaining or transferring jurisdiction to the receiving court. Both parties would need to consent to the transfer of supervision and jurisdiction. Would oppose any effort to make this new law mandatory rather than the current permissive status.

I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.