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House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2496

February 11, 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 support House Bill 2496 for very simple and practical reasons. The current statute allows community corrections programs to issue an identification certificate for offenders we supervise on parole. Expansion of this process to probationers will allow our client to obtain identification so they have more success in securing employment, obtaining available health care, and other life duties. Our clients often have difficulty reconnecting to the basic operations of life and addressing the issue of identification aids their transition and successful completion of supervision.

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

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