



February 1, 2022

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2517

Chair Owens and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am Stuart Little, President of the Behavioral Health Association of Kansas (BHAK), the State's trade organization dedicated solely to substance use disorders (SUD) treatment and prevention providers seeking integrated behavioral health care. BHAK believes that true integrated behavioral health means access and funding for mental illness and substance use disorder treatment without regard to where our consumers seek services in the publicly funded behavioral health system.

We support House Bill 2517 making changes to the certification process for treatment providers participating in the Senate Bill 123 treatment in lieu of incarceration. All of our members are providers of services within the Senate Bill 123 treatment program. The transfer of certification from the Kansas Department of Corrections to the Kansas Sentencing Commission should be a streamlining of the process to providers to participate in this valuable and effective state program.

We support House Bill 2517 and are happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.

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