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**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Neutral Testimony on Senate Bill 2088**

Chairman Wilborn 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 and seven affiliated groups. I am here today representing these thirty-five member agencies.

We are neutral on House Bill 2088 because we cannot fully endorse expanding demands on the system without funds to pay for treatment. There are no margins or savings to cover adding more participants. Overall funding has declined from over \$8.0 million to close to \$6.0 million while demand and costs increase. House Bill 2088 is symbolic of the great success of the Senate Bill 123 treatment instead of incarceration policy set many years ago. The program works by treating offenders and diverting them from prison. However, that success drives the interest in expanding the program. Expansion of the number of offenders in the program only works well when it is accompanied by expended funding to treat offenders and supervise them. If we continue to expand the Senate Bill 123 system without expanding funding, we eventually put the program at risk. The only result is swift and expensive increases in incarceration costs. We will testify and advocate in the appropriations process to restore the Senate Bill 123 funding cuts.

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