



DCCCA
IMPROVING LIVES

3312 CLINTON PARKWAY
LAWRENCE, KS 66047

785.841.4138
785.841.5777 (FAX)
WWW.DCCCA.ORG

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 2407
House Child Welfare and Foster Care Committee
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Representative Concannon and Committee Members:

DCCCA has served Kansans for nearly fifty years, coordinating behavioral health prevention and treatment services; recruitment, training and support of foster homes; and traffic safety education and resources. All DCCCA services and administrative operations have been nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation since 2011. Our prevention programs are accredited under the Community Change Initiatives standard which mobilize the community for action; strengthen the capacity of residents and organizations to effect and sustain change; build and improve neighborhoods; and lay the groundwork for future progress.

DCCCA is a partner in the Kansas Prevention Collaborative providing training and technical assistance to community coalitions throughout Kansas addressing behavioral health prevention issues including substance abuse prevention, suicide prevention, mental health promotion and problem gambling prevention. A key piece of our work includes supporting community coalitions to complete a comprehensive needs assessment using community-level data such as that derived from the Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey (KCTC).

KCTC survey results are used to monitor emerging trends and inform decision making about programs, policies, and practices to improve the health outcomes of children and youth through the application of evidence-based prevention strategies. KCTC survey results are not personally identifiable. The results are aggregated providing a summary of student data related to substance misuse and suicide prevention. This data can be used to help schools and communities implement evidence-based strategies to increase student health and wellness.

Passage of HB 2407 will increase participation in the KCTC survey by allowing parents to opt their child out of the survey versus the current opt-in requirement. Increased participation will allow communities to gain better data to identify areas of concern, assess progress of their prevention efforts and seek additional funding support. DCCCA is committed to data-driven prevention work to address the needs of youth in Kansas. Passage of HB 2407 ensures that we can help community coalitions access reliable, comprehensive data points to promote and support behavioral health prevention work in Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chrissy Mayer
Chief Community-Based Services Officer
cmayer@dcca.org
