



**Proponent Testimony on HB2033
House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
January 23, 2023**

Chair Owens, Vice Chair Smith, Ranking Member Highberger, and Members of the Committee, my name is Rachel Marsh, CEO of the Children's Alliance of Kansas. The Alliance is an association of 19 private, non-profit family well-being agencies that collectively provide a full array of services for children and families in child abuse and neglect prevention, family preservation, foster care, adoption, independent living, and parent, youth, and child skill-building, mental health, and substance use treatment.

The Children's Alliance supports HB2033, which would address a gap in services for juvenile offenders. The expanded definition for "behavioral health crisis" will ensure youth needing immediate crisis intervention have access to critical services. The definition also ensures juveniles experiencing or exhibiting issues that may create safety concerns for juveniles, their family members, or the community, can be appropriately addressed while longer term service plans are developed.

The Alliance supports strengthening our ability to meet the complex needs of youth who may experience behavioral health crises in Kansas. JCICs that serve youth presenting safety concerns are a critical part of this continuum of care. We ask that you support HB2033 and amend the definition to clarify JCIC admission criteria to better ensure the safety of our children, families, and communities.

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

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Members of the Children's Alliance of Kansas:

CALM, Emporia
Cornerstones of Care, Overland Park
DCCCA, Lawrence
Eckerd Connects, Wichita
EmberHope, Wichita
Florence Crittenton, Topeka
FosterAdopt Connect, Olathe
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