



**Proponent Testimony on HB2033 – Written Only
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
March 6, 2023**

Chair Gossage, Vice Chair Erickson, Ranking Member Pettey, 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 themselves, 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 experience behavioral health crises in Kansas. Juvenile Crisis Intervention Centers (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.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB2033. Please reach out to me with any questions you may have.

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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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