



Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2329
To: The Senate Judiciary Committee
From: Lorenzo Curry
Date: January 22nd, 2026
Subject: Defending SB 367, Fiscal Responsibility, and Kansas Families

Expanding Eligibility for Juvenile Correctional Facilities

Expanding eligibility for placement in juvenile correctional facilities is deeply concerning. Research consistently shows that incarcerating moderate-risk youth increases the likelihood that they become high-risk. When young people who could succeed in the community are placed in secure facilities, they are exposed to higher-risk peers, more trauma, and fewer protective supports—leading to worse outcomes, not better ones.

Secure confinement should be a last resort, reserved for the small number of cases where it is truly necessary for safety. Widening the net of incarceration contradicts evidence-based practices and moves Kansas away from the decarceration goals this Legislature has previously embraced.

We know alternatives work. In Kansas, community-based alternatives show just over **91% of youth successfully complete their programs**, meaning they comply with their case plans and do not reoffend. That is a strong return on investment and a clear indicator of what actually promotes accountability and public safety.

Rather than expanding eligibility for correctional placement, we should be strengthening and scaling what is already working—programs that keep youth connected to their families, education, and community support while holding them accountable in developmentally appropriate ways.

If incarceration made us safer, we wouldn't see higher reoffending rates after detention—but we do, which is why alternatives work better.