



Justice Center

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

To: Kansas State Senate Judiciary Committee

Date: February 2, 2026

Re: Support for expanding language and access to juvenile crisis intervention in SB 414

I'm writing to express my support for the juvenile crisis intervention language and access expansion provisions detailed in SB 414, authorizing funding from the evidence-based programs account to be used for licensed residential facilities that have behavioral health crisis intervention programs for juveniles. This will expand the facilities eligible to receive crisis intervention service funds to include facilities licensed by KDADS.

These changes align with the original intent of the funding and would create more access across the state for young Kansans' in crisis, keep them in their community, provide short term interventions and avoid juvenile justice and foster care systems for behavioral health crises. These are key goals of the Stepping Up for Youth Initiative, which is multi-year effort led by KDOC, KDADS, and DCF, and is an agency- and state taskforce approved recommendation resulting from a statewide assessment.

These juvenile crisis intervention provisions align with research and best practices for improving community safety, youth outcomes, and the efficient use of public resources in Kansas.

1. Research shows that youth that have a low-risk to reoffend who are diverted from court are less likely to reoffend, less likely to commit violence, and more likely to complete high school than youth who are formally processed by the court system. This is true even if diverted youth receive no services.
2. Appropriating and expanding access to resources specifically for juvenile crisis intervention is a cost-effective investment. Expanding access to crisis interventions for youth who have behavioral health needs and are not likely to reoffend will save Kansas money in terms of reduced spending on juvenile justice and foster care systems.
3. Finally, investing in these crisis supports allows Kansas to focus its limited resources for court time, supervision, and more intensive in-home and placement services on youth who are actually a high risk to reoffend. By establishing more crisis intervention centers, Kansas can support lower risk youth in the community by addressing the root causes of their needs and behavior and the state ensures that these youth are not taking up critical juvenile justice and foster care resources and services.

For these reasons, we encourage you to support the evidence-based crisis intervention provisions outlined in this bill. Thank you for your time and leadership on these important issues.



Sincerely,

Stephanie Ueberall, Deputy Program Director, Juvenile Justice, Council of State Governments
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