



**Senate Judiciary Committee  
Hearing on Senate Bill 414  
Megan Milner, Deputy Secretary  
Kansas Department of Corrections  
February 3, 2026**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 414 (SB 414).

Statute currently authorizes the Secretary of Corrections to enter into a memorandum of agreement with other cabinet agencies to provide funding of up to \$2,000,000 annual for purposes of juvenile crisis intervention services. SB 414 would expand the possible uses of these dollars to include other facilities licensed by the Department for Children and Families (DCF) or the Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) for purposes of behavioral health crisis intervention for juveniles.

Expanding access to these dollars will potentially afford a broader capacity for youth and families to access crisis services, which means an opportunity to intervene earlier and provide important behavioral health services to meet their needs. The more our state can focus on early intervention, the more likely we are to prevent deeper system involvement in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, as well as potentially the adult criminal justice systems. This can be done through brief, therapeutic interventions that provide respite for the caregivers, but also identification of needs and matching the youth to appropriate services. SB 414 would allow our state to increase availability of these services for youth and families.

The expansion of crisis intervention is a possible solution for community challenges that resulted in House Bill 2329 (HB 2329), as this level of intervention could be applied quickly upon identification of a need, instead of waiting to progress through the entire judicial process before a youth is eligible for a brief crisis respite placement. Additionally, crisis stabilization would not require that a youth be removed from the custody of their parent in order to be eligible or access services (as compared to placement in a group home under KDOC custody).

The Kansas Department of Corrections supports the amendments presented in SB 414.