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State Long-Term Care Ombudsman  
Aging and Long-Term Care Committee

Sam Brownback, Governor

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The Office of the State LTC Ombudsman would like to provide information as to why we are a proponent of HB 2583.

First of all, we feel like this would be a step in the right direction for adult care homes to be aware of sexual predators in their facilities/communities. Most general population nursing homes are not equipped to handle the complex issues a sexual predator/offender deals with on a day-to-day basis. It is not fair to staff or other residents.

Secondly, as I said this is a step in the right direction. This is the first step at looking at the sexual predator/offender issues in nursing homes. About two years ago, we encountered a case where a late 40's male was a resident in a nursing home in Western Kansas. He was a known sexual offender. Staff and Administration were aware of this. The staff did a pretty good job of taking care of him, despite his issues. He was confined to a wheelchair and needed extensive physical assistance. Then the nursing home admitted a 23 year old female with mental health issues. He made his moves. The facility called the police, but they were unable to arrest him because of his high level of physical assistance needs. The nursing home was left with the task of providing one-on-one supervision until he was transferred to another facility.

Finally, although we are in favor of this bill there needs to be other alternatives. Most nursing homes, once they find out a prospective resident is a sexual offender will not admit them. There needs to be a good solution for people who are in need of skilled services, but also carry the label of offender.