

Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight

November 15 2016

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Interim Testimony on HB2639 and alternatives to incarceration for special needs populations

Thank you Chairman Smith and members of the committee for allowing me to speak today.

It is imperative that new legislation be rooted in non perverse constitutional adherence. HB 2639 attempts to take a fragile system of caring and treating people who have criminal behavior issues and streamlining it to alleviate the stresses of a broken corrections system. I simply believe this current vehicle of legislation is not the correct policy trajectory the state of Kansas should deploy. Many hours have been spent by many individuals trying to come to consensus on this bill and it is not working. I, as a taxpayer and concerned citizen, without getting into the weeds, would rather have this body take its time to update the current care and treatment act (59-2945) and not use our precious resources to label and package people in a different way with a stand-alone bill. Crime is crime and discretion is discretion. Please consider the goals of limiting trauma, keeping the peace, and independence in mind as you try to solve these issues of great importance.