



**KANSAS**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
**COUNTIES**

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Senate Judiciary Committee  
March 13, 2024  
SB 416

Kansas Association of Counties  
Opponent Testimony

Chairwoman Warren and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer opponent testimony against SB 416, which would prohibit fines, fees and costs being charged against a juvenile or a juvenile's parent, guardian or custodian.

The Kansas Association of Counties supports all efforts dedicated to rehabilitating and guiding juvenile offenders away from criminal endeavors towards productive, law-abiding lives. Achieving that result requires lots of dedication, work and involvement from a number of different stakeholders, as well as numerous programs to assist in achieving this goal.

SB 416 would eliminate all fees, fines and costs for associated with juveniles, including booking and fingerprinting (Sec. 2), house arrest (Sec. 4), offender registration (Sec. 5), bond, lien, and judgment fees (Sec. 6), appointment of an attorney (Sec. 10), immediate intervention (Sec. 16), post adjudication costs (Sec. 19) and many others.

While there may be good reasons to statutorily eliminate some of these fees, or even give the court discretion to waive or lower these fees, a blanket waiver or elimination of *all* fees for juveniles may not be the best course. If, in fact, the committee desires to review the fees that juveniles are subject to, that would be something KAC would support.

The Association would recommend more study of this issue to determine which, if any fees should be eliminated, where the juvenile court may be given discretion to determine if a fee should be reduced or waived, and which fees are necessary for the administration of justice. If appropriate, the Judicial Council may be able to study this issue and make recommendations on which fines, fees and costs are appropriate to waive, which can be reduced, and which can be left to court's discretion.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this perspective on this important legislation.

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