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Division of Corrections – Administrative Services

700 S. Hydraulic, Wichita, KS 67211 - www.sedgwickcounty.org - TEL: 316-660-9750 - FAX: 316-660-1670

Glenda Martens
Director

Hearing on HB 2050
State Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
1:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Chairman Jennings and members of the committee, my name is Glenda Martens and I'm the Director of the Sedgwick County Department of Corrections. I am appearing today on behalf of Sedgwick County in opposition to HB 2050.

First of all, Sedgwick County enjoys the collaborative relationship we have with the Kansas Department of Corrections and we are sympathetic towards the financial challenges facing the State in dealing with the rising costs of incarceration. But we stand in opposition to HB 2050 because the jail confinement provisions as proposed in this bill impose an unfunded mandate on local governments in this state.

Currently the Secretary of Corrections is responsible for the 120-day and 180-day confinement sanctions. In 2018, in Sedgwick County 144 defendants were remanded for 120-day sanctions and 80 defendants were remanded for 180-day sanctions from our County to the State Department of Corrections. Transferring this responsibility to counties and county jails in the form of the proposed 60-day confinement sanctions will cost Sedgwick County as much as \$967,000 annually. HB 2050 represents a systemic shift, both philosophically and financially, without any evidence-based purpose while also lacking a funding source to support the burden that this bill will place upon counties and county jails.

In summary, Sedgwick County stands with the Kansas Sheriffs' Association, the Kansas Association of Counties and others in opposition to HB 2050. It is our recommendation that in lieu of adopting this bill that local and state criminal justice stakeholders be empaneled in a collaborative partnership to identify holistic approaches to manage probationary defendants who struggle with substance use, mental health and social / behavioral challenges that are detrimental to personal success and local public safety.