



State of Kansas

Office of Judicial Administration

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January 25, 2022

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House Committee on Judiciary

Chairman Patton and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to speak today in support of House Bill 2527. My name is Amy Raymond and I am the Chief of Trial Court Services for the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA). I am responsible for administrative oversight of court services officers (CSOs) across Kansas.

In November 2018, the Supreme Court commissioned the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to complete a CSO workload study. Following review of the NCSC study, the Supreme Court formed a workgroup to review CSO workload as outlined in the NCSC study, review statutory provisions related to CSO work, examine organically-arising local practices, and develop recommendations regarding the tasks. The workgroup submitted its report to the Court in the fall of 2019.

Two of the workgroup's recommendations are proposed in House Bill 2527. In section one, page 4, current law requires the court to order "temporary supervision" by "district court probation and parole services, community treatment facility or appropriate private agency" over adults found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect who are released from a mental health facility. A few districts have CSOs doing this work on a minimal basis. In its analysis, the workgroup concluded that, currently, CSOs do not have the experience or specialized mental health training necessary to supervise these individuals and recommended that CSOs be excluded from doing this work. Therefore, we are proposing a statutory change to remove CSOs as an option and the proposed change on page 4 creates this exception.

The second recommendation proposed in the bill is section 2, page 5. Under current statute, if a law enforcement officer takes a child into custody without a court order and the child is not "delivered to the custody of the parent or other custodian," the law enforcement officer may deliver the child to a CSO. The statute also provides other options, including a shelter facility designated by the court, juvenile intake and assessment worker, licensed attendant care center, or a juvenile crisis intervention center. The workgroup concluded that court service offices are not an appropriate place for children and CSOs in their official capacity are not appropriate custodian nor are they are not equipped to take custody of children. We recommend removing the CSO as an entity that may take custody of the child. While

currently this is not a common practice, if this situation happened, a CSO would most likely be taking custody of a child and placing them in an administrative office setting.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.