

Kansas Department of  
Social and Rehabilitation Services  
Don Jordan, Secretary

SB 590 – Establishing the Substance  
Abuse Policy Board

Senate Judiciary Committee  
March 10, 2008

Chairman Vratil and members of the Committee, I am providing written testimony in support of SB 590.

SB 590 provides for the establishment of a substance abuse policy board consisting of cabinet level membership from the Department of Corrections, the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the Juvenile Justice Authority, the Kansas Bureau of Investigations, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and two persons representing the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals.

The purpose of this new policy board would be to analyze and study issues like drugs courts in other states, driving under the influence, and their root cause of substance abuse. This board model, which brings together multiple agencies and field representatives, is one that has been successful in addressing other complex social and criminal justice issues that require informed and comprehensive public policy. Having previously served as Chair of the Sex Offender Policy Board, I can attest that these types of boards can help ensure that agencies and the field work together to address issues such as substance abuse in the most effective and efficient manner.

Should the committee have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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