PHELPS – CHARTERED

Attorneys at Law

Jonathan B. Phelps, Esq.

1414 S. Topeka Blvd.
P.O. Box 1886
Topeka, Kansas 66601-1886
785/233-4162 (Phone)
785/233-0766 (Fax)
jon.phelps@phelpschartered.com

January 28, 2016

Senate Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
February 3, 2016
Senate Bill 367

Testimony of Jonathan B. Phelps
Proponent

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

For 30 months I have been privileged to be one of the three juvenile defenders in Shawnee County, Kansas. Although I have done mostly criminal defense work in my 33 years of practicing law, this recent work is by far the most important. The vital changes which the passage of the provisions of SB 367 would effectuate are needed now for juvenile justice. I've studied the Juvenile Justice Workgroup final report and believe it is well thought out and credible. I've been present and participated in discussion of its provisions with the Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board for Shawnee County, and it has received broad support there. In 2015 I attended the JDAI Annual Meeting in Arizona and the NJDC Juvenile Defender Leadership Summit in Utah; and these reforms are the type that all states have obtained or are striving to obtain now.

I would like to be present on February 2nd and 3rd to testify in person, but instead I will be in Juvenile Court most of those days, so I write to enthusiastically urge my support for the provisions of SB 367.

Sincerely,

Jonathan B. Phelps

jmp