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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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DENNIS "BOOG" HIGHBERGER
46TH DISTRICT
June 27, 2020

Gov. Laura Kelly
300 S.W. 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612

By e-mail to: Kate.Davis@ks.gov

Dear Gov. Kelly,

Thank you for your outstanding leadership during these difficult times. I hope that you know that you have my full support as you make the difficult decisions that will be necessary during the coming year.

However, I must express my serious concern about what I have heard about your proposal to sweep all of the \$44 million currently in the Juvenile Evidence Based Practices Fund (JEBPF). As you know, this balance consists entirely of money that was saved by the state by reducing out-of-home placement of juvenile offenders that was achieved through the passage of SB 367 in 2016. All of these funds were intended to be used to permanently reduce out-of-home placement of juvenile offenders and improve outcomes for Kansas youth.

I am afraid that removing these funds will change our SB 367 experiment from a great step forward for Kansas youth into a disaster whose effects will be felt for many years. Please consider leaving at least half of the current balance in the fund, so that the evidence-based programs that depend on it can continue. I understand that in order to balance the budget the amount proposed to be taken from the JEBPF must come from somewhere. I believe that there are places where some of this money could be obtained with less serious and immediate short-term consequences, and you will certainly have my support if you choose to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dennis Highberger', written over a horizontal line.

Dennis "Boog" Highberger