



Kansas County & District Attorneys Association

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To: Chairman Jennings and Members of Corrections and Juvenile Justice

From: Kim T Parker Kansas County and District Attorneys Association

Date: February 20th, 2020

Re: Proponent Testimony House Bill 2708

Good Afternoon Chairman Jennings and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony regarding HB2708. The Kansas County and District Attorney's Association joins and supports the work of the Criminal Justice Reform Commission Chaired by Marc Bennett, Sedgwick County District Attorney and participating member Tabitha Owens, Smith County Attorney.

Many communities across the state struggle for enough resources to provide necessary drug abuse treatment for low level offenses and potential divertees. Often, County and District Attorney's do not have sufficient resources to supervise Diversion Programs. HB2708 allows for the expansion of diversion across the state by allowing County and District Attorneys to enter into MOU's with court service officers and community corrections to provide supervision of divertees and it authorizes the utilization of funds to assist a divertees entrance into "drug abuse treatment programs". We urge the passage of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration Kansas County and District Attorney's

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