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**Testimony to the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice in Support of House  
Bill 2191  
February 10, 2021**

**Chair Jennings and Members of the Committee:**

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office supports **HB2191 - Increasing criminal penalties for the crimes of riot and incitement to riot when the crime occurs in a correctional facility.**

Violent actions in a correctional facility often result in the destruction of property and injury to corrections officers and inmates. While criminal charges are often made against inmates that commit violence against a corrections officer, it is not uncommon for those charges to be reduced due to a plea bargain and/or simply added concurrently to the charges the inmate is serving a sentence for. Neither sanction sends a message that this type of behavior is not acceptable.

Increasing the penalty from a Class A person misdemeanor to a severity level 8, person felony, is a more appropriate sanction for this type of crime and sends a message that this type of activity will be taken seriously.

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office asks that you report this bill favorably for passage.

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