

**Proponent Written Testimony on House Bill 2073**

House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

Logan Byrd - Private Resident

January 25, 2023

Chair Owens, Members of the Committee,

I recommend this committee support HB2073.

In short, it is unjust that Kansas courts charge children in the legal system with thousands of dollars worth of legal fees at every step of the court process. Most children do not have jobs, meaning they do not contribute to bills, so by requiring juveniles to pay fines and fees at every step of the judicial process, we place the burden of harsh punishment on working families, many of whom already live below their means, trapping them into a cycle of debt.

As previously stated, these fees most often burden the families of these children, so the passing of HB2073 would thus aid in finding a solution to the end of punishing these impoverished families and better bridging the gap between the existing racial and economic disparities. Opposing this bill would mean setting up our youth to fail for years to come. I strongly urge you to support HB2073.

Thank you,

Logan Byrd