

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
January 23, 2017
House Bill 2093

Testimony of the
Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Proponent
(written only)

Dear Chairman Jennings and Members of the Committee:

We are thankful the Sentencing Commission introduced this bill and we urge the Committee to pass it out favorably.

Last year, the Legislature passed HB 2463, which expanded the list of juvenile adjudications that would decay from a person's criminal history if he/she was 25 or older. This change does not cover young people under 25. HB 2093 would make it possible for people who are not yet 25 to have an adjudication fall out of their criminal history score if there is a five-year gap present in their record.

Over the last several years, we have seen cases (all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court) and scientific research that confirm what we already knew to be true: that children are different from adults.

For the longest time — continuing to this day for many folks, I suspect — the prevailing belief was that what happened or happens when you were/are a juvenile does not follow you into adulthood. We know the opposite is true, especially with regard to calculating criminal history scores.

House Bill 2093 balances public safety, what we know from research, and how juvenile justice has evolved over 30+ years. This would be a very fair, much-welcomed policy change to address young people under the age of 25.

Thank you for your consideration,



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