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Commissioner Bobby Love, Sr.,
Chairman

Sam Brownback, Governor

February 20, 2017

To: State of Kansas House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
From: Rev. Bobby L. Love, Sr. Chairman
Kansas African American Affairs Commission

Re: House Bill 2352/Support

Good afternoon Honorable Committee Chair. My name is Rev. Bobby Love, and I have the distinct privilege to serve our great State of Kansas as an appointed Commissioner of the 3rd Congressional District for the Kansas African American Affairs Commission. Recently I was selected by my colleagues to serve as Chairman. In our most recent meeting, the above-mentioned bill was discussed as it related to the possible unintended consequence of barring and or disqualifying potential qualified candidates desiring to pursue a career in Law Enforcement and serve their respective communities. However, due to youthful indiscretions that resulted in a misdemeanor charge being on their record, those individuals will not allowed to be hired.

On behalf of the KAAAC, we would like to encourage your committee to consider any necessary modifications to the current statues and or laws that could remedy this and create opportunities that are now closed. We are not advocating that minimum qualifications standards be lowered nor watered down. However, rather a simple modification that lends itself the latitude to attract additional men and women to apply.

This action, in our opinion, would open up the career doors of Law Enforcement to those qualified candidates desiring to serve and who otherwise would be hired were it not for the misdemeanor charge (committed and convicted as a juvenile under the age of 18) on their records.

Thank You,

Bobby Love