



Kansas County & District Attorneys Association

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To: Chairman Patton and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Kim T Parker, Prosecutor Coordinator: Kansas County and District Attorney's Association

Date: February 18th, 2019

Re: Proponent Testimony House Bill 2292

Good Afternoon Chairman Patton and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to support the passage of HB2292. This bill is introduced by one of our members and former President of the Board of the Kansas County and District Attorney's Sedgwick County, Marc Bennett. DA Bennett has always been at the forefront in Best Practices for Prosecutors. He is constantly committed to the protection of Kansas citizens and ensuring a fair and just criminal justice system in our state. The proposal he presents today through HB2292 is one that he has been researching and working on for several years. His proposal attempts to expand the availability of Diversion options to individuals charged with crimes. This thoughtful proposal considers the woeful lack of resources and community-based drug and mental treatment options in most Kansas communities.

HB2292 seeks to allow County and District Attorneys explicit authority to enter into an MOU with the existing probation supervision agencies; state court services and community corrections to supervise divertees. It also authorizes the utilization of drug treatment money, currently only available to people after they have been convicted, for individuals placed on diversion.

This proposal represents an effort to expand diversion in Kansas to allow individuals who are charged with crimes an opportunity to restore victims, obtain treatment, and avoid a conviction. We urge the passage of HB2292

Respectfully Submitted

Kim T Parker

Prosecutor Coordinator Kansas County and District Attorney's Association