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**Testimony to the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
In Support of HB2026**

January 20, 2021

Chairman Jennings and Committee Members:

Our associations support HB2026. It is well known that many of our lower-level crimes are committed by persons with drug or alcohol addictions. We support the provisions of this bill to establish the option to include substance abuse treatment as part of a diversion program when appropriate and the platform to assure proper oversight of the person during the diversion process.

Many of these offenders' best hope for not committing new crimes is found in the treatment of their addictions. No recidivism is the ultimate goal of these programs. Our hope is that the opportunity for appropriate diversion programs will provide the incentive for these offenders to turn around their lives by completing treatment programs.

Our only concern is whether adequate services will be available to provide the treatment programs and the oversight of the person on diversion. Only with adequate treatment services and supervision services available in every part of our state can these programs be successful.

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