



March 12, 2021

To the representatives and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I write to express the support of Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity (MORE²) for the passage of HB 2366. MORE² is a non-partisan, faith-based coalition of dozens of faith communities from varying backgrounds and political inclinations. Yet despite our diverse membership, we recognize broad support for increased transparency and reform for our criminal justice system, which transcends partisan allegiances.

Indeed, following the upheavals of 2020, specifically related to concerns for racial equity and increased attention to intersections with law enforcement and criminal justice systems, this bill offers an opportunity to chart a pathway forward built around common sense and consensus. We must acknowledge that some of the facts of our status quo are concerning. Black Kansans, for instance, are nearly 8 times more likely to be incarcerated than their white counterparts.

At the same time, acknowledgement offers opportunity. We can learn, grow, and incorporate these lessons to move forward together as a state. HB 2366 offers transparency for an often shadowy process, and in the words of Justice Louis Brandeis, “sunlight is the best disinfectant.”

Thank you for your time and service to our state. I pray that soon, we can celebrate the passage of these common-sense reforms, which can benefit all Kansans by ensuring the use of jailhouse witnesses is done responsibly and ethically. God bless.

Sincerely,

Marcus Winn
Director of Voter Engagement
Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity