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House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
Topeka, Kansas

Subject: Support for SB 318

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I would like to offer my support for Senate bill 318 as originally passed through the Senate Committee on Judiciary, removing fingerprint requirements for certain traffic violations. I am standing neutral on the amendments made on the Senate floor.

To introduce myself: I am a part time Judge in Goessel, Kansas and full time Court Administrator for Newton, Kansas. I currently serve on the executive board for the Kansas Municipal Judges Association (KMJA). I have served as President of both the Kansas Association for Court Management (KACM) and the Kansas Association of Municipal Probation Officers (KAMPO). I am familiar with the views of court professionals across the state and speak from a position of vast experience in all facets of municipal courts.

Fingerprinting is inherently a tedious, manual process. It creates a workload burden for municipal courts. This bill would relieve courts of that burden for a few common traffic violations, such as driving with an expired license and driving without proof of insurance. These offenses are recorded on a person's driving record – courts have easy access to that information. There is simply insufficient benefit from the time-consuming work of fingerprinting citizens with these traffic violations.

I agree with Mr. Klumpp's assessment that K.S.A. 8-142 doesn't require fingerprinting and can be struck from the bill.

A high percentage of these traffic offenses pass through our municipal courts, who shoulder the burden for those obtaining fingerprints. I would like to ask for your support in relieving this administrative burden.

Thank you,



Greg Nickel