



NAACP KANSAS STATE CONFERENCE

Founded 1943

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Testimony of: Kenya Cox, President, NAACP Kansas State Conference of Branches
Proponent: HB 2352

Kansas House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee Monday, Feb 20, 2017

Good afternoon,

Chairman Jennings, Vice-Chair Whitmer, Ranking Member Highberger and Members of the Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice,

My name is Kenya Cox and I serve as the President of the Kansas State Conference of NAACP Branches. On behalf of our nearly 1900 members state-wide I request your support of HB2352.

In the final report of the *President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing*, it states that, "Law enforcement agencies should strive to create a workforce that contains a broad range of diversity including race, gender, language, life experience, and cultural background to improve understanding and effectiveness in dealing with all communities."

We whole heartily agree with that statement!

We believe that the implementation of HB 2352 with additional clarification of the language specifically targeting misdemeanor juvenile offenses, would allow local law enforcement agencies to be more successful with their diversity-building efforts, while simultaneously helping to bridge the law enforcement community divide.

Additionally we believe that HB 2352 will give those individuals desiring a law enforcement career the ability to pursue the career without having youthful indiscretions forever bar those possibilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Kenya Cox

Kenya Cox, President
Kansas State Conference of NAACP Branches