



Kansas County & District Attorneys Association

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To: Chairman Jennings and Members of the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

From: Kim T Parker

Kansas County and District Attorneys Association

Date: February 3rd, 2020

Re: Opponent Testimony for House Bill2484

Good Afternoon Chairman Jennings and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony for HB2484. I am addressing you on behalf of the Kansas County and District Attorney's Association.

We stand in opposition to this sweeping proposal to allow for the whole sale administrative cut of prison sentences by 50%. The prosecutors across Kansas are daily required to help Kansas citizens who are victim of criminal acts navigate the criminal justice system. Initially, helping them find services to help them deal with their victimization, followed by explaining the criminal justice process that often leaves them waiting and resulting in unsatisfactory remedies, restitution, or restoration. Prosecutors meet with victims to explain the sentencing structures of our state, including good time credit. Victims are often angry, disappointed and frustrated by the lack of accountability required of a convicted defendant. The task of helping a victim understand that a sentence just delivered by a judge to a defendant can be cut in half by an administrative review of a defendant's conduct, while locked up, does not go well. This is especially true after a victim has gone through the rigorous trial process or is unable to reestablish their own way of life due to the victimization.

While our association is mindful of the current stress upon our penal system, we urge you to take a closer look at this proposal and the negative consequences it brings. Our association testified last year to the unsatisfactory attempts to piecemeal the solutions to criminal justice. We urged the legislature to take a global and comprehensive look at solutions to the problems we face in criminal justice. Indeed, this legislature, authorized the **Criminal Justice Reform Commission,2019**, to do exactly that, allowing for a more comprehensive approach to solving sentencing and penal reforms in our state. This measure at the very least should be considered by the Criminal Justice Reform to determine its impact. We urge the rejection of HB2484.

Kim T Parker

Kansas County and District Attorney's Association

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