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**Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee
Regarding HB2009
January 20, 2015**

Chairman Barker and Committee Members,

Our associations are neutral on the core policy decision being debated in HB2009. However, we recommend consideration be given to a minor amendment regarding the fingerprinting provision.

Section 1, subsection (c), on page 1, lines 31-34, requires local law enforcement to “. . . assist. . . in the taking and processing of fingerprints. . .” relating to this proposal as well as the existing employees already required to be fingerprinted. The current language creates an unfunded mandate on local law enforcement and we recommend an amendment to alleviate that problem.

This can be remedied by adding “Local law enforcement officers and agencies may charge a fee to be reimbursed for expenses incurred in taking and processing the fingerprints under this section.” after the word “persons” on page 1 line 34. This is the same language added by various committees in recent years to bills requiring fingerprinting for background checks to clarify our ability to recover costs for these services.

Most of our agencies no longer require fingerprint equipment at our agency facilities as fingerprints are now taken electronically at the jails. For obvious reasons having employment applicants going into the secure areas of the jails for applicant fingerprinting is not desirable. As a result, we have to maintain paper and ink fingerprinting equipment and supplies for these applicant prints. We only want to be able to cover our supply, equipment and personnel costs for taking these prints.

Thank you for your consideration.

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