**Testimony in Support of House Bill 2459
Before the Senate Judiciary Committee
Kirk Thompson, Director
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
March 14, 2018**

Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committee:

I first want to thank you for requesting the Kansas Judicial Council study the topic of civil asset forfeiture, which had been the subject of a Legislative Post Audit report in 2016, as well as eight pieces of legislation introduced during the 2017 Legislative Session. I had the opportunity to participate on the Judicial Council's Civil Asset Forfeiture Advisory Committee and appreciate the difficult work and compromises made by all members.

I am here to testify in support of House Bill 2459, which is reflective of the Advisory Committee's consensus position and recommendation. This legislation addresses the issues identified in the Legislative Post Audit report, ensures a reasonable process is in place for persons to file claim to seized property and assets, and provides guidance on how asset forfeiture proceeds may be spent. Additionally, it calls for the collection of data that will allow us, collectively, to better understand how civil asset forfeiture is being used in Kansas and inform future public policy makers.

In order to collect data regarding forfeiture actions and proceeds derived from forfeiture actions, New Section 1 includes a legislative mandate that the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) develop the Kansas asset seizure and forfeiture repository by July 1, 2019, and maintain the repository and an associated public website thereafter. I'm here today to convey to you that the KBI stands ready and willing to do so.

I fully support the work of the Advisory Committee, their consensus position, and their recommendation, which appears before you in HB 2459.

I appreciate the time you've allowed me to speak to you today and I would be happy to stand for questions you may have regarding the repository.

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