



February 16, 2022

To: Members of the Committee on Transportation

From: Tramaine J. "T.J." Ingram/Kansas State Conference of NAACP Branches

Reference: Proponent Testimony for House Bill 2629

Good morning, Chairman Proehl and members of the Committee on Transportation. My name is T.J. Ingram, and I am the State Legal Redress Committee Chair for the Kansas State Conference of NAACP Branches. Our organization assists Kansans in obtaining relief from discriminatory acts.

Oftentimes when laws are created the impact of the law is not fully understood until situations occur such as those you will hear today. State and local governments use fines and fees to fund law enforcement and other government operations. However, those gravely impacted by these laws are the black and brown communities and individuals in poverty in Kansas who cannot afford the cost of the ticket(s).

As of 2021, 11.5% of families in Kansas have incomes that have fallen below the Federal Poverty Threshold in the past twelve months (Kansas Legislative Research Department, 2021). This estimates to 9.8% White, 23.6% Black or African American, 21.6% American Indian and Alaska Native, 11.6% Asian, and 19.7% Hispanic or Latino.

Individuals who cannot afford a ticket have no bearing on public safety. Therefore, there should be alternatives for those individuals that do not include jail time. Continuing under the Kansas Habitual Offender Act criminalizes individuals in poverty by creating a cycle of debt and incarceration.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2629. Thank you for the opportunity to speak and I will be more than happy to answer any questions.

Fondest Consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tramaine J. Ingram". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tramaine J. "T.J." Ingram

P.O. Box 21298
Wichita, Kansas 67208
866.591.1196