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Testimony to the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee In Support of HB2708

February 20, 2020

Chairman Jennings and Committee Members:

Our associations support HB2708 which would allow persons on diversion with drug addiction issues to participate in drug treatment programs and providing supervision options. Including persons placed on diversion with drug addiction issues in the drug treatment programs is a responsible approach to help achieve the intended outcome of the diversion. The effort spent here is likely to reduce more costly solutions later.

Supervision when appropriate is also a sensible tool to make available to assist achieving success.

The record of the SB123 Drug Treatment Program shows substantially positive outcomes. Through the diversion, these offenders are being given an opportunity to avoid a criminal record if they don't reoffend. Those with addictions need help to be successful which will save many of them from further involvement in the criminal justice system.

We recommend favorable action by the committee on HB2708.

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