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**Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee
In Support of HB2389
February 23, 2021**

Chairman Patton and Committee Members:

Our associations support HB2389. The bill clarifies that a Notice to Appear (NTA) for a misdemeanor violation of KSA 21-5706 involving possession of marijuana is acceptable as a "complaint" in the District Courts. Current law allows the use of an NTA in municipal courts for these types of municipal code violations and in district court for certain wildlife violations (the reference to KSA 32-1049 on page 2, line 3).

Many of our agencies prefer the use of an NTA on these misdemeanor charges. However, the current law does not provide the NTA serves as the complaint. This bill would fix that issue and allow us to use an NTA without taking a person into physical custody.

We believe this change in the law is consistent with public safety allowing a person to be held accountable for their alleged violations with minimal intrusion. We do not see any negative impact on the accused person's rights or on law enforcement operations in this limited change to the charging laws.

We encourage the committee to recommend the bill favorably.

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