

January 27, 2015

TO: Chairman Greg Smith; Senate Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee  
Re: SB18

It is an honor to be able to submit written testimony to the committee in support of SB18, a pressingly important bill.

I'm urging the committee to pass SB18. This model legislation also referred to as the "police and protection act", when passed, will give Kansas the opportunity to lead by example and show citizens, communities and officers across the state, that we are vested in their safety, protection and wellbeing.

Body cameras are not a new idea, with many jurisdictions already putting policies in place to fund and deploy the devices.

President Barack Obama asked Congress in December for \$75 million/year for 3 years in grant money to help law enforcement agencies buy more cameras, believing that the investment could help purchase 50,000 cameras over three years. It goes without saying that with the passing of SB18, the State of Kansas must also make a commitment to funding a portion of the cost associated with equipping each law enforcement officer in all jurisdictions with body cameras. The community believes that this is a small price to pay for transparency, accuracy and peace of mind for both the officer and the citizen involved. There is a feeling of mistrust between some communities, particularly minority communities and the police, this feeling exist across our nation and **yes** it does exist right here in Kansas!

Data is proving that body cameras can significantly help boost transparency in officer interactions with the public, thereby increasing trust factor. SB18 presents Kansas with the immediate opportunity to be proactive and not reactive when it comes to serving, protecting and trusting. Again, I am urging the Senate Juvenile Justice Committee to pass SB18 out of committee so that it can be passed when presented to the body of the Whole Committee.

Respectfully,

*Melody McCray-Miller*

Former State Representative, 89<sup>th</sup> District  
Former Ranking Member, House Corrections and Juvenile Justice  
Chair, Kansas Urban League  
Chair, African American Coalition