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Dear Honorable Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee Chairperson, Honorable Ranking Member Senator David Haley, and all the Honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee I rise and offer testimony in support of Kansas Senate Bill 128 introduced by Senator David Haley.

Allow me to briefly introduce myself. My name is Alvin Sykes. I am a resident of, and an independent voter within, Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas.

I am also a 40 plus year veteran victim advocate who transformed the poison coming out of a tragic sexual assault at the age of 11 into the medicine of justice for countless victims of crime for decades!

Throughout my justice-seeking journey I have been successful at reactivating several hate crimes most notably the 1980 racially motivated murder of musician Steve Harvey in Kansas City, Missouri and the 1955 lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Money, Mississippi. Racist murderer Raymond Bledsoe is still serving a life sentence in the federal prison, as we now speak, for the hate murder of Steve Harvey.

Since 2007 the Emmett Till Justice Campaign has convinced Congress to

pass into law both the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 and the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Reauthorization Act of 2016 to pursue and investigate unsolved civil rights racially motivated murders.

Most hate crimes that will come under senate bill 128 are not murders. Lesser crimes such as assault and vandalism happen a lot more frequently. Those penalties are lesser as well. That is where Senator Haley-s bill comes effectively into play. Presumptive double sentencing sends a crystal clear message to the perpetrators and likeminded folks who think and act like them that justice seeking Americans will not let the motivation for their criminal acts go unnoticed and unpaid for!

Alvin Sykes

President

Emmett Till Justice Campaign