



SYNTHESIS.EARTH

01-25-21

RE: TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 1296

HB1296 seeks to maintain confidentiality for booking photos until guilt or innocence has been established.

In America, we believe in due process. As such, the accused are afforded many rights to ensure they will be afforded every opportunity to tell their side of the story, mount a defense, and clear their name.

It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. In the Internet age and with our modern attention span, a picture and a headline is more than enough to convict someone in the court of public opinion. As such, publishing booking photos of the accused, along with a description of the crime they are alleged to have committed, interferes with due process by broadcasting in perpetuity a photo and a headline that implies guilt. By keeping booking photos confidential until guilt or innocence has been established, we can maintain due process and ensure that no one's reputation is sullied unfairly.

As such, we urge the committee to move forward with a DO PASS recommendation for HB 1296.

**Sincerely,
Ryan Warner
Synthesis.Earth**