

**From:** [Matthew Moore](#)  
**To:** [Public Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** REACH pre incarceration diversion program  
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My name is Matthew Moore and I live in the third district of Kansas City missouri.

I'm here to advocate for comprehensive Reform  
as we shift away from Budgets of mass incarceration toward pre-arrest  
diversion services

Through the REACH initiative proposed by Decarcerate KC

Mass Incarceration is America's answer for poverty and the mental  
health issues that often accompany poverty.

Cages don't work to keep our families and communities safe.

Incarceration doesn't address the root causes of civil disobedience.

Incarceration only serves to increase the detrimental harm of  
psychological stress and financial hopelessness.

Emotional distress along with financial deficiencies enhanced by  
incarceral penalties

perpetuate a deadly cycle which takes a person deeper and deeper into a  
hole they can't get out of.

This is a health care issue for our community and individuals within  
these communities.

It is unreasonable to think that the justice system or the corrections  
department is capable of implementing this type of radical reform and  
healing for our community.

Indeed American Justice has always targeted our indigenous and Black  
and brown communities violently and disproportionately.

I've both seen and intervened time and again, when these cops are treating our Black brothers and sisters in ways they have never treated me.

I know victims of racist sentencing norms who because of their skin color are sentenced to triple the cage time as their white counterparts. The same cops who will ask me if I am okay, will brutalize a Black man having a mental health crisis on my street.

I'm not making this up. We need to reinvent the carceral wheel..

As members of the council, you have the opportunity to Support a program founded on care and empathy as an alternative to the endless cycle of incarceration.

ICXC  
Matthew Moore