



## State Representative John E. Barnes, Jr.

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Thank you, Chair Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson, and my esteemed colleagues on the Criminal Justice Committee for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 6.

The purpose of our criminal justice system is to achieve justice first and foremost. It is an injustice to have a process, where individuals are receiving money and charging fees at the expense of achieving justice, and at the same time ruining the reputation of individuals otherwise, who are innocent.

House Bill 6 will prohibit a person engaged in publishing or otherwise disseminating criminal record information through a print or electronic medium from negligently soliciting or accepting from a subject individual the payment of a fee or other consideration to remove, correct, modify, or refrain from publishing or otherwise disseminating criminal record information. Criminal record information is defined as a booking photograph or the name, address, charges filed, or description of a subject individual who is asserted or implied to have engaged in illegal conduct. House Bill 6 will make a violation of this prohibition a first degree misdemeanor.

House Bill 6 specifies that, in a lawsuit for damages for a criminal act under continuing law, a subject individual who suffers a loss or harm as a result of a violation may be awarded \$10,000 or actual and punitive damages, whichever is greater, and reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, and any other remedies provided by law.

Thank you again for this opportunity, I would be happy to answer any questions.