

Senator Kellie Warren
Committee on Judiciary
Kansas Senate

RE: HB 2755

Dear Senator Warren and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of House Bill 2755, a bill that would put in stricter requirements for bond agents seeking authorization from the Chief District Court Judge to post bonds in that District, as well as ensure bonds are treated the same across the state. The bill as it is currently written will have a measured impact to ensure the equality and fairness of our criminal justice system.

First, the bill, if enacted, will allow the Chief District Court Judge to ensure those bail agents operating in our District are licensed, trained, but most importantly are acting in accordance with the law and standards of the Kansas Judicial System. A background check is an important tool for Chief District Court Judge's to have when determining authorization for a bail agent. The Judge will be able to see if there are any crimes of dishonesty or felonies in the potential agent's background. Our criminal justice system, especially in more rural areas, rely on honest and trustworthy bail agents. These agents work to get defendants to court and provide an extra level of oversight on them.

Second, the bill, if enacted, will ensure that a bond on a warrant levied in Johnson County will be treated the same if that person is picked up on the warrant in Cloud County, and vice versa. While requiring compensated sureties to charge at least a 10% premium of the face value of an appearance bond, is a restraint on the free market, it is a necessary one. This requirement will help accomplish what our criminal justice system has promised for 163 years, that defendants will be treated equally, no matter their background. This promise is why we have a sentencing grid for felonies and clearly defined penalties for misdemeanors. It is so at the time of sentencing a defendant in McPherson County will be judged the same as one here in Cowley County, only by the crime they are currently before the court and the previous crimes they have been convicted. This is what the requirement of 10% premium will do, treat warrants and the bonding amount the same across our State. Victims, law enforcement, and Defendants all deserve to know that where a crime is committed will not dictate how much of a percentage of a bond one will have to put up to get out of jail. It will also help my fellow prosecutors when arguing bond amounts to know if a defendant will be able to post a bond so that we can keep victims apprised of the case as it moves towards resolution.

I would strongly urge you to pass this bill out of committee and through the Senate. Thank you for your time and dedication to my fellow citizens of our great state.

Respectfully submitted,



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