

To: Judiciary Committee, Kansas State Senate
From: JC Loewen (Proponent)
Date: 03/01/2024
RE: Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB 2755

TESTIMONY:

Madam Chair Warren, Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is JC Loewen and I am a Member, and vice president of, the Kansas Bail Agents Association (KBAA) and I have been a licensed & practicing Bail Agent in the State of Kansas for over 20 years.. I'm currently the Operations Manager for Owens Bonding Co. and have worked in the Bail Industry all of my adult life. I write in support of HB 2755 for two primary reasons:

1. Since the KBAA's inception, it has worked hard to promote and maintain professional and ethical standards for the profession. This Bill is another step forward in several ways of assuring that the industry is well-regulated and ethically sound in the State of Kansas. The contents of this Bill elevate the qualifications of a Bail Agent, limit unethical practices, and expand on local regulation by the Courts of Bail Agents. Furthermore, it installs secure practices of posting a bond and proper procedures thereof.
2. The practice of "discount bonding" has stirred an outcry from citizens in some Kansas communities and the concerns appear to be growing as the practice appears to be expanding. Occupations within the criminal justice system, like law enforcement officers, judges, prosecutors, etc., have also spoken of displeasure and concerns regarding "discount bonding." The reasons behind this outcry are vast and sometimes different per stakeholder and I am sure this will be expanded upon in your committee discussions. The KBAA is trying to uphold the industry's professionalism and address these concerns through HB 2755. I support this Bill, along with several other Bail Agents, because it will create a balanced and compromised resolution to the issue of "discount bonds."

Thank you, Madam Chair Warren and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for taking the time to read my written testimony. I hope my testimony has been helpful and I urge you to support HB 2755.

Sincerely,
JC Loewen
Operations Manager



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