KANSASCHAMBER
UNITED FOR BUSINESS

House Committee on Judiciary
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 463- Prohibiting Damages for Wrongful Conduct
Presented by Eric Stafford, President & CEO, Kansas Chamber

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, President & CEO for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 463, which prohibits certain individuals from recovering damages through civil actions.

If you conduct a quick search, you can find numerous examples of individuals suing a business for injuries sustained during attempted robberies, theft or from claims of negligent security. One legal firm even promoted representing individuals who were injured due to negligent security. SB 463 is a logical bill that simply clarifies that a criminal cannot sue in negligence if their lawsuit is over harm they suffered related to their criminal activity.

SB 463 leaves Kansas' modified comparative negligence in place except where someone has committed a serious crime or engaged in equivalent wrongful conduct. The burden of proof is still on the defendant so long as they establish wrongful conduct. This is a positive reform to protect business owners.

In closing, Senate Bill 463 is a commonsense policy to strengthen our state's legal climate and we appreciate the opportunity to submit comments in support of the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I'm happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.