Tess Sanford Ramirez

Co-Director of Protecting KS Children From Sexual Predators

Tess.ramirezjd@yahoo.com

Opponent

Oral and written Testimony

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this bill.

As written, this bill would prevent negligent security claims against a homeowner unless they had actual knowledge of wrongdoing on the property within the last year. This standard is dangerous. It would shield people who choose to look the other way and create a legal safe harbor for those who knowingly allow children to be placed in harm's way.

In the real world, abuse is often hidden, minimized, or actively covered up. Spouses and family members may protect a predator, deny what they know, or fail to warn visiting families that a known danger lives in the home. When that happens, civil accountability is sometimes the only avenue that allows victims to obtain justice from those who knew there was a risk and did nothing to protect the children who entered that environment.

Our group has heard far too many stories from women who went to a friend's house for what was supposed to be a fun, innocent sleepover, only to be molested by their friend's father and have their lives permanently altered. In many of these cases, someone in the household suspected or even knew that this adult was unsafe around children—but chose silence over protection.

In my own case, a woman opened a cheerleading gym with a man she knew had a history of molesting young girls. She still chose to put him in a position of power and access. I was sexually assaulted by him at that gym. Under the standard in this bill, because she did not have "actual knowledge" of him abusing a child on *those exact premises* within the last year, she could not be held responsible for failing to protect us. That is not justice; it is a roadmap for avoiding responsibility.

This bill sends the wrong message: that the law will protect those who protect pedophiles, rather than those who protect children. We should be encouraging adults to act on red flags, prior histories, and credible concerns—not rewarding those who ignore them until it is too late.

I urge you to reject this bill. Survivors, and all Kansas children, deserve laws that prioritize their safety over the comfort and legal protection of those who enable abusers.