

STATE OF KANSAS  
SENATE CHAMBER

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 236-E  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612



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WILLIAM S. CLIFFORD, MD  
39TH DISTRICT

TO: House Committee on Taxation  
FROM: Senator William S. Clifford, MD, 39<sup>th</sup> District  
Re: House Bill 2275 – Written Proponent Testimony  
Date: February 13th, 2025

Chairman Smith, Vice-Chairman Turner, Ranking Member Sawyer and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill (HB) 2275. As a current State Senator, a former Finney County Commission Member and a former State Representative for the area encompassing Garden City, I have seen firsthand the challenges that local governments face in maintaining critical infrastructure, including our 43-year-old county jail facility and law enforcement center.

The Finney County Jail and Law Enforcement Center, which serves as a key facility for the entire Southwest Kansas region, is in dire need of replacement. Over the years, increasing demands, aging infrastructure, and rising costs have placed a significant financial burden on the county and city. Without a dedicated funding source like a 0.5% sales tax, the cost of building a new jail and a remodeling of the law enforcement center will strain local resources, delay necessary improvements, and ultimately compromise public safety.

House Bill 2275 offers the county and city a fiscally responsible solution by allowing a sales tax to be dedicated to the construction of a new jail and remodel of the law enforcement center. Public Safety is a fundamental responsibility of government, and our local law enforcement officials must have the resources they need to protect our communities. This approach ensures that the financial burden is shared equitably in the region, reducing reliance on local property taxes while securing the necessary revenue with voter approval, to complete the project.

I respectfully urge the committee to support House Bill 2275 and provide Finney County and Garden City with the tools they need to ensure safety and financial responsibility. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William S. Clifford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "W" and "C".

Senator William Clifford, MD, 39<sup>th</sup> District