

Hello, my name is James S. Carver, I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 261. As currently written, K.S.A. 41-2623 and K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 41-311 prohibit me from being eligible to hold a position it also may restrict others in similar circumstances. participating in a bipartisan 501(c)(3) organization. Through this organization, we have been actively rebuilding connections within our community and creating meaningful, positive impact. These statutes prevent me from participating in leading myself and others in helping people in my community and across the whole state of KS after showing years rehabilitation and decades of responsible citizenship.

It has been 41 years since the incident that now prohibits me from my holding the position I am wanting to hold. My incident was non violent and truthfully minor but because of the laws in Texas at that time I was put on parole that should of only been a probation. Such a minor and non violent incident in any other state and I wouldn't be in this position. I never even did any jail time but at that time I had to be processes as a parolee. As previously mentioned in Kansa I would of only received a probation and not parole status...This has been my only brush with the law in a criminal manor. Since that time, I have built my life and career. I have become successful in business and as a father of 3 and grandfather of 4 I have served on a board of directors. Today I am the owner and operator of my own business now for over 35 years. I am now 61 years old, and I dedicate a significant amount of my personal time to giving back. I have been part of two organization for over ten years that both work with the surrounding communities to give help to those in need. One group we put between 15 and 18 thousand dollars out to people that have sickness or some type of disability causing them to not be able to pay the bills or put food on the table. Ailments range from cancer and sickness or even accidents and then there is the tons of help we give to children through toys for tots, genesis food banks and many other local establishments aimed at helping those in need. This is done through generous donations from me and those in the group I wish to be part of from the board member leadership position. I can not do this without some changes of current laws and regulations. Why should something from that for back in my past stop me from taking the lead in activities as important as this.

SB 261, by design, gives individuals like me—who have changed, rebuilt, and are positively contributing to our communities—the opportunity to fully participate as responsible citizens. This bill represents a thoughtful and responsible update to existing law. It not only allows reformed individuals to re-enter normal civic life, but it also sends a powerful message that our judicial system values rehabilitation and accountability.

I am encouraged to see Kansas willing to examine practical solutions that reduce unnecessary lifetime barriers while maintaining safeguards through case-by-case decision-making. I respectfully ask that we work together to move SB 261 forward, strengthening our communities and improving both local and state economies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

James S. Carver