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Chairman Kellie Warren
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612

February 12, 2025

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 157 – Access to warrants and remission creation

Chairman Warren & Members of the Committee:

In full disclosure, this is an industry I have operated for 25+ years and offer my expertise to answer questions and provide input

This bill accomplishes three important things.

- When a fugitive recovery agent attempts to apprehend a fugitive, especially out of state, having a hard copy of the warrant is essential for validating their actions to local law enforcement. Current law requires the warrant be entered in NCIC within 14 days, but doesn't speak to the authority of a compensated surety / fugitive recovery agent to access the warrant.
- Changes the criteria for setting aside a bond forfeiture if the defendant leaves the country and the compensated surety / fugitive recovery agent doesn't have authority to affect an arrest. Similar to a defendant being incarcerated in another detention facility, there is no way an arrest can be affected. It is my understanding there is a change that may be requested in this language to clarify its intent.
- Creates a remission requirement - Under current law, once a bond is paid on day 61, the compensated surety / fugitive recovery agent loses their authority to arrest a defendant, thus putting the burden back on law enforcement. This amendment continues the authority and motivates the surety to continue to do their job. Some counties in Kansas already have something similar in local policy and many states already allow this as well. This creates a statewide standard.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Stephen Owens