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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary  
In Support of HB2347  
March 4, 2025**

Chair Warren and Committee Members:

Our associations are in support of HB2347 as amended by the House Committee strengthening the theft laws on obtaining control over stolen property. Our main concern this addresses is its application to auto thefts. Auto thefts continue to be an issue across Kansas. From 2020 through 2023, we averaged 8373 vehicles stolen in Kansas per year. That is an average of 23 per day or one every 57 minutes. While the trend seems to be dropping slightly, the 2023 auto theft rate is about 5% above the 10-year average. Some of these vehicles are stolen to use in other crimes. This change will apply to all thefts, not just auto thefts. It correct the same problem with other types of thefts.

The amendment will address one of the issues we have in getting convictions when we catch an offender in possession of a stolen car. Current language requires proving the person in possession of the vehicle either is the one that stole it or actually knows it was stolen. Absent a confession, it is very difficult to prove what the person had knowledge the vehicle is stolen. Even if the ignition is punched or the vehicle can be operated without a key the current language creates challenges. The phrase "reason to know" is used in five other criminal statutes and in one traffic statute, KSA 8-116, relating to stolen antique vehicles. This change is consistent with other statutes.

We encourage you to move HB2347 forward favorably.

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