

**Denise Wyrick**  
**Proponent Testimony for SB 358**  
**to the Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**February 4, 2026**

**In-Person Testimony**

Dear Chair Warren and Members of the Committee:

My name is Denise Wyrick. I am a victim/ survivor of sexual violence connected to the Clark Petersen case in Riley County, and I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 358.

I am submitting my testimony because SB 358 addresses an important aspect of our current judicial process that is quite distressing and may lead to further harm for victims and survivors, including myself and others who were victimized by Clark Petersen.

The consequences of this assault I experienced have had a deep and profound impact on my life. It has cost me deeply in physical, spiritual and emotional ways, not to mention the huge amount of money I have paid him over the years. I feel like I was raped financially, emotionally, and mentally tortured and I didn't even realize it until the true impact and reality hit me.

Knowing that after Clark Petersen was convicted by a jury, the decision to allow him to remain on bond and return home overnight before sentencing was devastating. For many of us, it left the emotional relief of his conviction unaddressed, and felt like a dismissal of the harm we endured and the courage it took to come forward. Allowing someone convicted of serious crimes to remain free after conviction sends a dangerous message to victims, survivors, and our communities. It undermines sense of safety, retraumatizes those who have already endured significant harm, and reinforces the belief that the system prioritizes offenders over accountability.

The time since the assault occurred has been very difficult for me. The involvement in the investigative actions of the police department and County Attorney's office has had a powerful effect on me emotionally, mentally and spiritually. Finally, the court process itself and the aftermath still haunts me.

SB 358 is an important step in recognizing the immediacy of our judicial process and reduces the fear of further harm that some victims in some situations may experience. Bond should be revoked when a person is convicted of certain serious crimes. This bill will increase the sense of safety, dignity, and respect for victims, survivors and for our community. This bill would help prevent other victims from experiencing the same threat of harm and retraumatization that we did.

I respectfully urge the committee to support SB 358 and advance this bill. Victims and survivors deserve to feel safe, believed, and respected at every stage of the justice process — including after a conviction is secured.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Denise Wyrick  
Manhattan, Kansas (Riley County)