

Elizabeth Jankord
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 **Elizabeth Jankord**. I was one of the many women sexually assaulted by Clark Petersen. I am testifying today in support of **SB 358** for the same reason I came forward initially, in the hope of protecting others.

It is difficult to describe the emotion I felt on hearing the word, "Guilty", repeated fifty-one times by the jury foreman as charges against Mr. Petersen were read out in the courtroom. The pain and emotional trauma of telling my truth began to melt with the realization that I had played a part in preventing this from happening to anyone again.

And yet that met an abrupt moment of incredulity, as Judge Bannister announced his decision to allow Mr. Petersen to return home pending sentencing, essentially allowing him one more opportunity to commit the crimes of which he had just been convicted of fifty-one times! A more grave possibility would be that the unsupervised felon would take fatal revenge on the victims who came forward, the jury who convicted him, the judge, his own family members, or himself, in addition, of course, to the obvious flight risk.

It is clear that all of these considerations, as well as any eventual accountability on the part of the judge who chose to release him, can be avoided by taking this responsibility off his/her shoulders. By simply mandating that an individual convicted of serious felonies be remanded to the county jail pending sentencing, the community at large, as well as everyone associated with the case, including the convicted felon, will remain protected.

Thank you for supporting SB 358.

Elizabeth Jankord
Manhattan, Kansas Resident