

Carson Kober
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 Carson Kober. I am a survivor connected to the Clark Petersen case, and I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 358. I testify today because SB 358 addresses a critical failure in the criminal justice process that caused real harm to victims and survivors, including myself. After a perpetrator is found guilty of a serious sex crime, allowing them to walk free, even for one night, can be deeply retraumatizing and dangerous.

Like many other Petersen survivors, I was unprepared for what happened after more than 50 guilty verdicts were read. I believed this moment marked the end of a years-long nightmare. Finally, there would be accountability. Finally, I would not have to worry about running into Clark Petersen in my community. I was wrong.

Despite the guilty verdicts, Clark Petersen was allowed to walk out of the courthouse the same night as the survivors. For that night, he was treated like a free and innocent man. He could have fled, harmed himself, or sought out victims. As survivors, we sat in the courtroom stunned and shaken, struggling to understand how this was allowed to happen after everything we endured to secure justice. I felt nauseous and disbelieving. It felt as though our suffering did not matter—and as though we were expected to accept it. No victim should ever be expected to be okay with this.

SB 358 is necessary because it ensures that once a person is convicted of certain serious crimes, bond is revoked and accountability is immediate. This bill is not about punishment; it is about safety, dignity, and respect, for victims, survivors, and our communities. It would prevent others from experiencing the same retraumatization we did.

SB 358 reflects collaboration between survivors, legislators, and local officials, and it responds directly to what victims have been asking for: a justice system that protects us not only during trial, but after conviction.

I respectfully urge the committee to support SB 358. Victims and survivors deserve to feel safe, respected, and believed at every stage of the justice process, especially in the vulnerable hours after a conviction is secured.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,



Carson Kober
Manhattan, Kansas Resident