

Hjerda McAllister
Proponent Testimony for SB 358
To the Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee
February 4, 2026

Written Testimony

Dear Chair Warren and Members of the Committee:

My name is Hjerda McAllister. I am one of the many survivors of the Clark Petersen case and I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 358.

I am providing written testimony today in support of SB 358 because once the jury made their decision and Clark Petersen was found guilty of 51 charges he was allowed to go home for just one more night. Clark Petersen lived in my neighborhood, just down the street. Criminals are supposed to be taken to jail following conviction where the public will be safe from harm. This did not happen in this case. It was devastating.

SB 358 is necessary because it makes certain bond is revoked and the convicted are immediately taken to jail. This bill would provide other victims and survivors from experiencing what we did. Ensuring the safety of victims and survivors and the community is paramount.

SB 358 came about because the group of us needed to feel heard. We're simply asking that the justice system takes our safety and the safety of future SA victims seriously following conviction, not just during a trial.

In closing, I respectfully urge the committee to support 358 and advance this bill. Victims and survivors deserve to feel safe and respected throughout the entire justice process – especially following conviction.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Hjerda McAllister

Manhattan KS