



KANSAS BAR
ASSOCIATION

TO: The Honorable Lance Kinzer
And Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Joseph N. Molina
On Behalf of the Kansas Bar Association

RE: HB 2741 – Amending the Kansas family law code

DATE: March 13, 2012

Good afternoon Chairman Kinzer and Members of the House Judiciary Committee. I am Joseph Molina and I submit this written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Bar Association in support of **HB 2741 – Amending the Kansas family law code**. This is clean-up legislation from a bill passed in the 2011 session, SB 24.

As background, in 2011 the Kansas Legislature passed SB 24 which amended Kansas domestic relations laws because domestic relations laws had grown increasingly complex. Federal involvement in this area has forced the code to evolve in a piecemeal fashion. The lack of uniformity in the code created inefficiencies and confusion. SB 24 was designed to bring uniformity to the family law code in Kansas. It is important to remember that SB 24 did not make any substantive changes to current Kansas law; it merely organized the code into a more logical structure. This way when substantive changes to the code are made, its organization will foster a smoother transition.

To this end the Kansas Judicial Council Family Law Advisory Committee, a group comprised of experts in this area of law, worked for nearly two years developing SB 24. This was a highly effective review process that considers various points of view. However, as with most things, theory was impeded by implementation. Over the past several months family law practitioners have expressed concerns that SB 24 did not do all that was promised. Several important additions and amendments failed to make its way into the statutes and the need to pass a clean-up bill become necessary.

Thus, HB 2741 was introduced as a measure to correct any oversights that may have occurred. The KBA supports the efforts of the Kansas Judicial Council Family Law Advisory Committee and their willingness to reengage the legislative process to complete their goal. The KBA supported SB 24 in its entirety and we support the clean-up bill which is HB 2741.

On behalf of the Kansas Bar Association, I thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this written testimony.

About the Kansas Bar Association:

The Kansas Bar Association (KBA) was founded in 1882 as a voluntary association for dedicated legal professionals and has more than 7,000 members, including lawyers, judges, law students, and paralegals. www.ksbar.org