



Date: February 16, 2022

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Kellie Warren, Chair

From: Alex Orel, Senior Vice President – Government Relations
Kansas Bankers Association

Re: Written Proponent Testimony - SCR 1618

Dear Chair Warren and Members of the Committee:

I am Alex Orel submitting written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Bankers Association (KBA), organized in 1887 and whose membership includes 98% of the 220 banks and savings & loans headquartered in Kansas. Our membership also includes 19 out-of-state commercial banks operating in Kansas. The Kansas banking industry employs more than 22,000 Kansans that provide financial services in every county across the state. Our organizational mission statement is:

"Together, we support our member banks and bankers with leadership, advocacy, and education to benefit the communities and customers they serve."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on SCR 1618. We appreciate Attorney General Schmidt and this committee's efforts to look at solutions that would allow the elected officials of the Kansas Legislature to have the final say to repeal or suspend rules and regulations that have the force and effect of law implemented by those officials that are not elected.

Attorney General Schmidt recently presented SCR 1618 to KBA's State Affairs Committee, which consists of almost 40 bankers across the state who direct our policy decisions at the KBA.

The ultimate decision to support these efforts was unanimous.

A proposal that would put a check on the power of those non-elected officials that implement these rules and regulations will do nothing but benefit Kansans across this state. The need for checks and balances within our system is critical to our state's success, and SCR 1618 does precisely that. It will restore a balance by requiring real accountability for rules, regulations, and executive orders implemented on Kansans.

When the committee decides to act on SCR 1618, we strongly urge that it acts swiftly and passes it out favorable for passage. Thank you for your consideration.