

House Committee on Corrections & Juvenile Justice – PROPONENT HB 2350

2/14/23

Dear Mr. Chairman Owens, Vice Chair Smith, and Committee Members,

Thank you for your time today to hear HB 2350. When I was campaigning while running for office last year, I met with Franklin County Sherriff Jeff Richards. He explained to me that we do not have a law against human smuggling in Kansas, which shocked me. He explained how Franklin County has I-35 going through it coming up from the border and that humans are being smuggled and that he needs our legislative help. He described how the FRCO Sherriff's department has pulled vehicles over with people who are responsible for smuggling humans and when they bring them into the station, call I.C.E., and I.C.E. doesn't come, they have to let these criminals go as there is NO law in Kansas for them to do anything about it.

This law makes it so law enforcement and our District Attorneys and Prosecutors can do their jobs.

Representative Rebecca Schmoe and I have both been working on this together as we both have Franklin County in our Districts. However, human smuggling is not just a FRCO issue, this is an issue that is all across the state of Kansas.

We have worked with the Sheriff's Department, Police Department, KTA Highway Patrol, KBI, Attorney General's Office, Homeland Security, the Associations of police/sheriffs/DA's/Human Trafficking Boards/US Congressmen/etc., all of which are proponents for our bill and will work with us upon this bill becoming Kansas Law. Homeland Security even suggested

We have had multiple back and forth emails with the different parties working with our Revisor on the wording and are happy to have a bill that will help protect Kansan's.

I appreciate your support for HB 2350 to stop human smuggling in Kansas.

In Service,

Representative Carrie Barth, KHD5

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