



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Before the House Committee on Judiciary
Proponent Testimony regarding HB 2676
Bob Stuart, Executive Officer
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Chairwoman Humphries and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to present testimony in favor of HB 2676 which will amend K.S.A. 21-5407 in meaningful ways. The KBI is aware of several tragic cases in Kansas (and more in other states) which indicate a trend of reprehensible online behavior encouraging and sometimes facilitating suicide. HB 2676 would restrict and criminalize this behavior in a thoughtful and appropriate manner.

When a proposed law restricts free speech rights our Courts rightfully scrutinize the law and judge whether the interests of the people of the state outweighs (or unconstitutionally infringes upon) those cherished rights. In this instance the KBI believes the carefully crafted language of HB 2676 will pass that test. In other words, the restriction of a person's "right" to *control, exert undue influence or coerce* another person into committing suicide is an appropriate use of the state's authority.

Based on the trend observation and the manner in which this bill is crafted the KBI supports recommendation and passage of HB 2676.

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