

**Senate Judiciary Committee
House Bill 2755
PROPONENT
March 20, 2024**

Chairwoman Warren and Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

I am submitting my testimony as a proponent of HB 2755. I am the Kansas Bail Agents Association Secretary and I have been a bondsman with Owens Bonding for 14 years.

I support HB2755 for many reasons. I have witnessed the practice of discount bonding firsthand and I believe that it has a negative impact on public safety, just like zero bail release. By requiring a bonding company to charge the industry standard of 10% and collect at least half of the fee will insure that people charged with dangerous crimes will have to post meaningful bail to secure their release. It will create financial accountability which is the biggest motivator. Our judges set these bonds according to the nature of the crime and public safety in mind. Our responsibility as bondsmen along with the indemnitors' is to make sure the defendant goes to court and follows bond conditions set forth by the court.

I also very much support keeping felons out of any aspect of the bail bond industry. Bondsmen and bounty hunters alike have been held to a higher standard of no felony convictions and I feel it is important that anyone working with bonds be held to the same standards for safety.

Eliminating the option for ebonding makes it necessary for a bondsman approved in each county to post bail in person. There is no security in place to prevent anyone from posting an ebond. By eliminating this, it keeps local accountability.

I would urge you to support this important HB2755

Respectfully submitted,
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