

**B&K BONDING, LLC**  
**158 N 8<sup>TH</sup> ST**  
**SALINA, KS 67401**

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

Ref: SB321 – Testimony in Support

Ladies and Gentleman of the Committee, my name is Dennis Berndt and I am an agent and managing partner of B&K Bonding, LLC doing business in Salina, Saline County, Kansas and 12 other Kansas Counties for over 30 years.

I am submitting testimony in favor of SB321. As a an agent and manager of a bonding company with its' main office located in Salina, Saline County, Kansas of the 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, which has a medium sized criminal docket, we see just about every type of criminal activity pass through the court room doors. The 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and most of the counties we work within do and outstanding job of setting bonds on all criminal cases, as well as, reviewing any modifications to said bond. Very few O.R. Bonds are granted within this district and never on person felonies. The case has to be all but resolved before an O.R. Bond or even a reduction in bond is considered. Therefore, with the passing of SB321 courts will have additional guidelines to base their bond decision on especially extreme cases when an O.R. Bond may be necessary but it still gives the judge full discretion on setting any bond.

Furthermore, the bailbond industry has always been under scrutiny to further regulate themselves, and as an officer of the court with the ability to detain an individual and take them into custody, much like a Law Enforcement Officer, we should be held to the same standards and hiring practices as Law Enforcement Officers. This is a direct measure to regulate our industry in a positive manner by putting consequences in place for ones actions. By expanding Sec. 3 of SB321 we are tightening our industry, as well as, giving consequences for violating those conditions. A surety and its agents need to held to a hirer standard, we serve a very important role in the judicial process and we need to be held accountable for our actions past, present and future.

In conclusion I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of SB321. I believe that the SB321 is a step forward in regulating the bonding industry, as well as helping reduce the expenses to the state that are connected to the posting of O.R. Bonds. I hope that after reviewing this testimony you can support SB321 and pass the bill favorably out of committee.