



Kansas County & District Attorneys Association

1200 SW 10th Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66604  
(785) 232-5822 Fax: (785) 234-2433  
www.kcdaa.org

To: Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Kim T Parker, Prosecutor Coordinator: Kansas County & District Attorney's Association

Date: February 1, 2017

Re: Written Testimony only in support of Senate Bill 42

Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Good Afternoon Chairman Wilborn and to your Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB42. I am Kim Parker and I am addressing you on behalf of the Kansas County and District Attorney's Association and the many Kansas prosecutors they represent. I have recently retired after serving the citizens of this state for over 32 years, as a prosecutor in Sedgwick County. Today I would offer support for SB42 as it seeks to clarify an ambiguity that currently exists within the sentencing provisions of K.S.A. 21-6620, 21-6623 and 21-6627. This necessary clarification of the statute will give guidance to prosecutors and courts and clear notice to defendants who have been convicted of these most serious crimes to ensure they are sentenced appropriately and consistently with their actions and criminal history, and in keeping with the original intent of the legislature.

Anytime a criminal sentencing statute is unclear or ambiguous it presents a hardship to the criminal justice system and all the participants including victims and defendants. If the original sentence is overturned by the appellate courts due to the ambiguity it requires a new sentencing procedure or a redo. All the parties must return to court for an additional court hearing. We believe SB42 brings clarity to the sentencing statutes of K.S.A. 21-6620, 21-6623 and 21-6627 reducing the risk of sentencing errors.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter that effects the safety of the citizens of this great state. On behalf of the Kansas County and District Attorney's Association I urge you to adopt SB42. I am open for questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim T Parker, Prosecutor Coordinator

Kansas County and District Attorney's Association