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## Proponent, SB 62

Feb. 2, 2017

**Senate Judiciary Committee  
Chairman Wilborn and committee members,**

Good morning.

Kansans for Life supports Senate Bill 62, which will strengthen the position of citizens utilizing the grand jury to redress grievances.

This is the third measure improving the grand jury protocol that we have been happy to endorse, notably:

- in 2013, a change in that protocol allowing the petitioner and attorney to witness the instructions given to the grand jury, to address the jury, and to suggest names of appropriate special prosecutors;
- in 2015, a change that would permit the petitioners' representative to witness the instructions to the jury by the judge.

Kansas is one of a handful of states retaining a citizen-petitioned means to act to correct perceived injustice or inaction by government authority.

Kansans for Life organized petition-signature drives for grand juries in 1994, 2006 and 2007, which were accepted and impaneled.

Unfortunately, in the experience last year of Mr. Cosby and petitioners in Johnson County, the court disqualified petitioners' signatures using an inapposite statute. Petitioners were then denied an appeal as lacking clear legal standing.

Citizen petitioners ought to be granted the standing to appeal in the matter of the grand jury that *they* caused to be created. It is a flaw that requires correction in statute.

Kansans for Life encourages this committee to recommend SB 62 for passage.

Thank you,  
**Kathy Ostrowski,**  
**Kansans for Life state legislative director**