

KAPCIC

Kansas Association of Property & Casualty Insurance Companies Inc.

February 7, 2018

SB 296

Written Testimony Before the Senate Judiciary Committee

Testimony by Marlee Carpenter, Kansas Association of Property and Casualty Insurance Companies (KAPCIC)

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present information on behalf of the Kansas Association of Property and Casualty Insurance Companies (KAPCIC), our state trade association for domestic property and casualty insurance companies. Most of the KAPCIC member companies are domiciled Kansas companies and our members live and work here in the state.

KAPCIC supports SB 296. Current Kansas law requires seatbelt use in vehicles, but current Kansas law does not allow this type of evidence to be presented to juries. This evidence is important because failure to use a seat belt is a well-known contributor to the severity of injuries sustained in motor vehicle accidents.

KAPCIC members believe that seatbelt use helps reduce injuries to insureds and can help keep costs lower to insured consumer. Allowing evidence of seatbelt use is important in helping juries determine the cost of injuries. Other states have already recognized the changes by admitting seat belt evidence for consideration by juries. We encourage this change in Kansas and for the committee to support and to advance SB 296.

Thank you for your time and please contact me if you have any questions.