



**KANSAS BAR
ASSOCIATION**

TO: The Honorable Fred Patton
And Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Joseph Molina
On Behalf of the Kansas Bar Association

RE: House Bill 2447 – Expanding the use of Audio-Visual Equipment in Kansas Courtrooms

DATE: January 23, 2020

Chairman Patton and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The KBA appreciates the opportunity to submit this written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 2447, expanding the use of audio-visual communication in Kansas courtroom.

As drafted, HB 2447 would permit one to: appear before a magistrate judge prior to trial, including first appearances; conduct non-evidentiary hearings through videoconferencing; hold bond hearings; and also allow minors to appear via videoconferencing in CINC matters.

By utilizing advancements in technology, the court creates time and cost efficiencies. It will take less time to transport individuals to court, lessen the cost of personnel time used transport and decrease wait periods for certain hearings.

It is important to note that HB 2447 is not absolute. A witness, defendant or minor may, upon a good cause showing, decline to use audio-visual technology. This safe harbor protects the witness/defendant/minor while affording the court the opportunity to benefit from technology.

The KBA believes that HB 2447 will improve the administration of justice in Kansas, consolidate efficiencies between local and state functions and benefit the citizens of Kansas through cost savings and more efficient use of county and court personnel. HB 2447 continues the Kansas Judicial Branch's goal of using technology to maximize court resources.

Thank you for your time and attention. I am happy to stand for questions when appropriate.

About the Kansas Bar Association:

The Kansas Bar Association (KBA) was founded in 1882 as a voluntary association for dedicated legal professionals. Its more than 7,200 members include lawyers, judges, law students, and paralegals.
www.ksbar.org