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To: Senate Commerce Committee
From: Mark Tomb, VP of Governmental Affairs
Date: March 11, 2021

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 219

On behalf of the Kansas Association of REALTORS® (KAR), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 219, which would give reasonable investigative powers to the Kansas Real Estate Commission in order to better protect consumers.

KAR represents over 10,000 members involved in residential, commercial and agricultural real estate and has advocated on behalf of the state's property owners for 100 years. REALTORS® serve an important role in the state's economy and are dedicated to working with our elected officials to create better communities by supporting economic development, a high quality of life and providing affordable housing opportunities while protecting the rights of private property owners.

Increasingly, unlicensed individuals are performing services that resemble, or are identical, to those holding a real estate license. Kansas real estate licensing and regulation serve to protect consumers by providing a framework for competently handling real estate transactions. These unlicensed individuals escape oversight and have the potential to erode consumer trust in the real estate transaction process. The ability to fully investigate and when necessary halt certain activities of unlicensed individuals should be granted to the Kansas Real Estate Commission.

First and foremost, KAR is supportive of this legislation because this change would benefit consumers. This bill allows for strengthened oversight and provides for a more productive way for the public to resolve disputes and claims that otherwise could only be addressed by litigation which is costly to the public and potentially difficult to resolve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 219. KAR requests that the Senate Commerce Committee act on SB 219 favorably.