

Hilary E. Segura
Assistant Vice President, State Government Relations

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Kellie Warren
Chair, Senate Judiciary
300 W. 10th, Room 441-E
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Support of SB283 – COVID-19 Immunity Protections – Written Testimony Only

Dear Ms. Chairwoman Warren,

Representing nearly 60 percent of the U.S. property casualty insurance market, the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) promotes and protects the viability of private competition for the benefit of consumers and insurers. APCIA represents the broadest cross-section of home, auto, and business insurers of any national trade association. We respectfully submit the following comments in support of SB283.

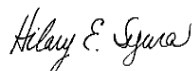
The private sector and individuals have actively engaged as an indispensable partner in the response to COVID-19. From transportation to property owners to manufacturers and more, many private sector participants are in the fight against this virus. In many instances they are volunteering in the effort. In still others, the private sector is acting under state and federal emergency orders.

Nonetheless, unlike their government partners, private sector responders and actors do not have the force and authority of the government to act and do not have immunity from liability even when acting to advance the COVID-19 response and recovery. That is why the extension of the immunity protections past March 31, 2021 is crucial.

Business owners simply should not be looking over their shoulders for a lawsuit when acting reasonable in an unprecedented global pandemic. That is why this bill is so timely and necessary. The extension of protections in SB283 will encourage efforts to improve safety from the virus. They will also prevent a second crisis in liability litigation when the health crisis passes.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support and urge the committee to vote “YES” on **SB283**. Please contact me directly at 847-553-3689 or via e-mail at hilary.segura@apci.org or APCIA’s local counsels Larrie Ann Brown at 785-640-2747 or via e-mail at larrieannbrown@gmail.com or Brad Smoot at 785-224-1200 or via e-mail at bradsmoot@smootlawoffice.com with any questions.

Sincerely,



Hilary E. Segura