



**Kansas Association of
Chiefs of Police**

PO Box 2163
Hutchinson, KS 67504
(620) 242-6565



**Kansas Sheriffs
Association**

PO Box 1122
Pittsburg, KS 66762
(620) 687-1206



**Kansas Peace Officers
Association**

PO Box 2592
Wichita, KS 67201
(316) 722-8433

**Testimony to the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
In Opposition to HB2068
January 24, 2023**

Chairman Owens and Committee Members,

We oppose HB2068.

As we understand the amendments on page 1, line 36 to page 2, line 1, the bill proposes reducing the sentence requirements for repeat offenders who commit a new crime while on release for a previously charged felony. That release may be pretrial release or post-conviction while awaiting sentencing. Current law provides upon conviction, the sentence for the new crime must run consecutive to the sentence for the first crime. The effect of this proposed amendment is to effectively allow no sanction for the second crime if allowed to be sentenced concurrently. This eliminates the deterrence of the current law.

When the court releases a person pretrial or presentence, they are allowing the defendant to be free trusting the defendant will not commit future crimes during that period. By committing the second crime, the defendant violates that trust provided through the courts. If the defendant is not deterred from committing a new crime during the pre-trial or presentence phase of their proceedings, they certainly are also highly likely to reoffend later when they have even less reason to not engage in criminal activity. The consecutive sentence is reflective of that strong indication of increased risk.

Being more lenient on these defendants continuing to commit crimes while on pretrial or presentence release does nothing to enhance public safety. It does the exact opposite, removing a deterrence to repeating their criminal activity.

We encourage you to not move HB2068 forward.

Ed Klumpp
Legislative Liaison
eklumpp@cox.net