

PRATT COUNTY SHERIFF

KANSAS



VERNON CHINN, SHERIFF

303 S. Oak Street
Pratt, KS 67124

620-672-4133 – Phone
620-672-2571 – FAX
Emergency 911

January 25, 2012

TESTIMONY ON SB 283

CHAIRMAN OWENS

Chairman Owens and committee members I would like to thank you for your time today. I am Vernon Chinn Pratt County Sheriff.

I urge you to support the proposed changes to K.S.A. 28-110 noted in this bill. Chairing the committee that looked at these changes, has been quite an education for me, and the issues we were presented are problematic for sheriff's offices across the state.

In 2004 when this issue was last looked at, fuel was \$2.17 per gallon and wages for my civil process server was \$11.75 per hour. Today I am paying \$3.05 for fuel and the salary is at \$17.35 per hour, an \$11,000 a year increase just in salary. Supporting the civil process service in my county alone has resulted in approximately \$45,000-\$50,000 per year in loss with travel, salary, and benefits. While I realize it is a service that is given to the Sheriff's Office by statute, these losses are absorbed by our taxpayers. I believe the suggested changes make a positive step in the direction of placing the costs where it belongs, on those who are asking for the service.

The alias summons issues that are addressed in this bill, pursuant to K.S.A. 60-312 or 61-3005, will result in a savings of time which is also part of the cost we are trying to save taxpayers. Any good business has to recover as much of their loss as possible while maintaining the efficiency of the service.

I know you all understand all too well the increasing cost of government services, which we are glad to provide for our citizens. However, I believe we constantly have to look at ways of keeping those costs as low as we can without jeopardizing the service. The proposed changes in SB283, I believe accomplishes just that. Many of our sheriff's across the state were involved in these suggested changes, from our largest offices to the smallest.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. I so appreciate the cooperation and support of the Kansas Legislature that I have experienced in my years as sheriff. Should I ever be of service to you in this bill or any other legislative process, please feel free to call on me.