

**Senate Ethics, Election and Local Government
Testimony in Support of SB 31
January 26th, 2017**

My name is Mearlin Overton, I have lived at 2331 N Lorraine for 52 years in Wichita, Kansas, Sedgwick, Co., District 1 –located just northwest of one of the best Universities in the State of Kansas- Wichita State University home of the Shockers. I am the President of the well-established and very active Matlock Neighborhood Association.

I am here to request your support for Senate Bill #31. This bill is very important for our neighborhood, city and county because many houses have been abandoned due to absent owners. As the neighborhood association president, I have reported, received and advocated for renters and home owners who live next door to blighted homes. One major concern is amount of time that homes are vacant and not renovated. Blight attacks crime, rodents, vandals and squatters. As an active community member a resolution to address blighted homes is requested.