

KAPCIC

Kansas Association of Property & Casualty Insurance Companies Inc.

March 8, 2018

HB 2457

Written Testimony Before the Senate Judiciary Committee

Testimony by Marlee Carpenter, Kansas Association of Property and Casualty Insurance Companies (KAPCIC)

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present information on behalf of the Kansas Association of Property and Casualty Insurance Companies (KAPCIC), our state trade association for domestic property and casualty insurance companies. Most of the KAPCIC member companies are domiciled Kansas companies and our members live and work here in the state.

Asbestos trust funds were created to care for asbestos victims. These funds were created after decades of litigation and bankruptcies to preserve funds for future claimants. However, over the years, independent studies have concluded that the trust system is susceptible to abuse. There is evidence that some are filing claims with multiple trusts as well as lawsuits against others that contain contradictory allegations of liability.

KAPCIC members believe that HB 2457 will provide transparency, and help reduce fraud in asbestos litigation by increasing access to relevant, necessary information about claims made with the asbestos trust funds. We do not believe that this bill takes away any of the plaintiff's remedies against those who are responsible.

KAPCIC members also support HB 2457 because will help victims who have yet to be compensation because it will help reduce abusive filings.

Thank you for your time and please contact me if you have any questions.