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**Testimony in Support of SB300 to the Senate Committee on Judiciary
January 26, 2022**

Chair Patton, Vice Chair Ralph, Ranking Member Carmichael, and Members of the Committee:

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office supports SB300. Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States and Kansas is no exception. According to our research, Kansas ranks in the top five for identity theft victims per 100,000 in population - 187 victims per 100,000 people.

There are organized groups and individuals that engage in credit card and identity theft. The techniques used vary from real-world to online tactics. All have the same result, the stealing of a person's identity that is then used or sold causing absolute chaos in the victim's life.

Recovery from identity theft can be a long and tedious process. Research shows that many victims of identity theft suffer emotional trauma. Victims often exhibit signs of grief like depression and heightened anxiety.

This bill provides another tool for law enforcement and prosecutors to combat this devastating crime. We would ask the committee to recommend the bill for passage.

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