



Kansas County & District Attorneys Association

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To: House Judiciary Committee
From: Steve Kearney, Executive Director
Kansas County and District Attorney's Association
Re: Proponent testimony for Substitute for Senate Bill 300
Date: March 1, 2022

Chairman Patton and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to consider the remarks of the Kansas County and District Attorney's Association (KCDA) regarding Substitute for Senate Bill 300. The KCDA stands as a strong proponent for the provisions of Senate Bill 300 and supports the other proponents in their remarks.

We agree and emphasize that expanding the Kansas racketeer influenced and corrupt organization (RICO) act is a necessary measure to protect Kansans from identify theft, identify fraud, and other forms of illegal business activities. With the rapidly rising numbers of internet financial transactions, the number of organized fraudulent financial crimes is correspondingly increasing. If a Kansan is a victim of identity theft it can have a financially devastating impact on their lives from which they may never recover.

Identity theft is a deeply personal invasion of privacy, affecting multiple facets of a person's financial, business, and private life, taking years to correct and mitigate in those instances where that can be accomplished. Expanding the existing racketeering statute to include these crimes will provide a statutory framework for the adjudication and future prevention of such crimes, saving numerous citizens from being victimized by racketeers, scammers, and identify thieves.

The passage of Senate Bill 300 is just one more way that we can all work together to protect our fellow Kansans. We strongly support Substitute for Senate Bill 300.