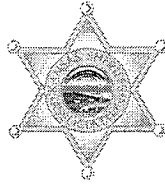




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**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee
In Support of SB 135
February 15, 2011**

Chairman Owens and committee members,

The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kansas Sheriffs Association, and the Kansas Peace Officers Association supports the passage of SB135 creating the Kansas racketeer influenced and corrupt organization act. This act will provide an additional tool to Kansas law enforcement and prosecutors to address the worst of the criminals preying on Kansans. This bill will provide enhanced penalties for participants in these criminal enterprises. Group criminal activity is the worst of the criminal activity. It is often hard to stop when a case can only be made on some of the participants. When the group of those planning, conspiring and reaping the benefits of these crimes can be prosecuted, the opportunity to stop the entire criminal enterprise is enhanced.

We do not foresee this statute being used abundantly. Much like the federal RICO act is not frequently used. These cases require extensive investigations and case building. They will be aimed at groups perpetrating widespread repeated crime in our communities.

It is not our intent to have a RICO law that is too broad. But it is important to have one that will cover the most vile of criminal organizations. Especially those engaged in crimes against our children, organized financial crime, organized use of violence to intimidate victims and witnesses, and criminal organizations that don't hesitate to use violence to silence their foes.

We urge you to support the favorable recommendation of this bill.

Ed Klumpp
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