
ALLEGHENY CASUALTY
INTERNATIONAL FIDELITY
ASSOCIATED BOND

February 1, 2012

Senate Judiciary Committee
Kansas State Legislature

Dear Committee Member:

I write in support of SB 321.

Our company is the nation's oldest and largest underwriter of Criminal Court Appearance bonds (bail). It is estimated that we appear as surety on one out of five of all such bonds. Your State is one of the bail markets we serve.

Our long and extensive experience has taught us that a measure such as the one you are currently considering not only strongly benefits the administration of justice in local courts but, and perhaps more importantly, enhances public safety interests as well. I say this for at least the following reasons:

1. The senior purpose of bail is to ensure the reappearance in court of the defendant as directed.
2. The greater the number of bail fugitives in the community the larger the number of future crime victims.
3. The defendant has a right to not have bail conditions be unduly severe, but society has corresponding rights as well that the conditions be sufficient to accomplish their purpose.
4. Commercial surety bail dramatically outperforms all other methods of release in having defendants before the court for disposition of the charges against them.
5. It accomplishes this not only at no expense to local government, but actually is a positive revenue generator in the process.

SB 321 aligns perfectly with all the propositions set out above, and we have irrefutable supporting evidence if you or your staff would be interested in reviewing same.

I am always available to discuss the positive aspects of this bill if you, or anyone on your behalf, would like to contact me.

Thank you for considering our request that you act favorably on SB 321.

Sincerely,



Jerry W. Watson
Chief Legal Officer, AIA