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**Testimony to the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee
In Support of HB2027
February 19, 2013**

Chairman Kleeb and Committee Members,

Our associations support HB2027. This is a bill addressing a need to help identify and return stolen property to the victims of crime and to identify the person responsible for the crime. Our associations have been involved in supporting similar legislation over the past two years. It is our understanding the bill before you comes from a compromise between law enforcement representatives and representatives of the pawn shop industry, an industry which has been required to record such purchases for years.

Theft is the largest crime category of part I crimes in Kansas affecting more victims than any other crime. With over 60,000 thefts reported to law enforcement annually in Kansas, nearly 2 of every 100 Kansans will report being a victim of theft in a given year. But, we know many crimes of theft are unreported. The 2011 Crime Victimization Survey reveals the victimization rates for theft are actually slightly over one household in ten every year.

The bill proposes a solution that will enable law enforcement to further investigate the circumstances leading to the attempt to dispose of stolen property through second hand stores. The information retained by the stores will provide additional investigative leads that will hopefully lead to a determination of the perpetrator of the crime, and at the very least will have a chilling effect on those persons disposing of stolen property through these legitimate businesses. An effective way of reducing thefts is to increase the difficulty for the thieves to convert their ill-gotten goods to cash. Enhancing the ability of law enforcement to identify the persons selling stolen goods is a proven effective tool.

We believe this bill represents a reasonable requirement on second hand businesses to be a part of the solution to these criminal acts. We encourage you to recommend the bill favorable for passage.

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