



**Testimony on Substitute for SB 71
Before the House Insurance Committee
By Kerri Spielman
February 29, 2011**

Thank you, Mister Chair and members of the committee, for the opportunity to offer testimony on Substitute for SB 71. My name is Kerri Spielman and I represent the Kansas Association of Insurance Agents. KAIA has approximately 550 member agencies and branches throughout the state employing over 3,000 people. Our members write over 70% of commercial insurance in Kansas, including workers' compensation. They also sell personal lines, health and life insurance. Our members are independent, small business owners who are free to represent many different insurance companies.

Background:

Substitute for SB 71 would require all applicants for agent licenses to be fingerprinted. Currently licensed agents would not be affected. Fingerprinting would allow the Kansas Insurance Department to access nation-wide background checks in order to protect consumers from criminals becoming licensed in Kansas.

KAIA has worked with the Kansas Insurance Department to amend the bill to expand the definition of Ethics to include regulatory compliance. This means that when agents do their due diligence and attend updates on changes to statutes and regulations, those updates may potentially qualify as Ethics for continuing education purposes.

Summary:

Substitute for SB 71 would help screen agent license applicants and prevent criminals from becoming licensed in Kansas. It would help protect consumers. And it would recognize the efforts of agents to keep up-to-date with regulatory and statutory changes.

The KAIA asks for your favorable consideration of Substitute for SB 71.



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House Insurance
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