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SENATE CHAMBER

DAVID B. HALEY
SENATOR
DISTRICT 4
WYANDOTTE COUNTY

February 14, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 125

TO CHAIRMAN WILBURN; VICE-CHAIR LYNN & MEMBERS OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

Thank you for hearing testimony on SB 125 which will, when enacted, put in place a mechanism to provide compensation to a person wrongfully convicted and/or provide compensation to the heirs of a person wrongfully convicted.

Succinctly, there are many people currently serving time in Kansas prisons and in innumerable prisons all over America and, indeed, the world, for a crime or crimes that they did not commit.

Think about that for a minute if that were you...wasting YOUR life away in a cell, accused and convicted for an act or acts that you, as a person, simply did not do.

To take it one step further, how would YOU feel if the State, through tax-payer supported agents (a bad cop, or an eager or bumbling prosecutor, or an erring judge or some combination of them all) was complicit in WHY you were serving that time for the crime you did not commit?

And after awhile, your case is reviewed and dismissed, or you are exonerated, and released from prison and that same State only says "Whoops...sorry for stealing a portion of your freedom..of your Life. Best wishes." And you've watched personal relationships and career opportunities and life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness wane, fade and, sometimes, completely disappear. What would YOU expect?

Many States have instituted systematic payment to those wrongfully convicted for a crime that can be proven to be traced to malfeasance by an agent of the State. SB 125 intends to add Kansas to that list.

As a long standing member of the Special Committee of Claims Against the State, I notice the patchwork manner in which former "offenders" seeking some monetary restitution come to be compensated.

I hope we all agree and put some schedule in place to insure swift continuity for any such hapless victim.

After any other Proponent is allowed to bring testimony and illustration, I'll be happy to stand for questions. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Haley".

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
JUDICIARY
PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE
ETHICS, ELECTIONS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

JOINT COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
HEALTH POLICY OVERSIGHT
STATE TRIBAL RELATIONS CHILDREN'S ISSUES
CORRECTIONS & JUVENILE JUSTICE OVERSIGHT