



*The Kansas District Judges' Association*



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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 58  
BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Madam Chair and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of S.B. 58. As judges at the trial level, we often encounter litigants that are “sovereign citizens” or adherents to other ideologies that do not recognize the existence of state or local government. A favored tactic of these individuals is to file fraudulent liens against the homes and other real estate owned by judges that often times have to deal with these individuals in court.

Last year, the mother of a disgruntled litigant filed a fraudulent lien against my home, Judge Bruce Brown’s home, and the homes of other court officials in the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. While current law provides a method to terminate these fraudulent liens, there is almost no consequence under current law for filing the fraudulent liens. Thus, the tactic of filing fraudulent liens is a relatively easy, low risk way to harass and intimidate judges, court employees and other elected officials.

As long as there is no real consequence for filing fraudulent liens, this practice will continue and likely will increase. S.B. 58 introduces long needed, real consequences for engaging in this fraudulent activity.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address the committee in favor of S.B. 58.

Dated: February 1, 2021.

Jeffrey E. Goering,  
Chief Judge, 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.