



**House Committee on Judiciary
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2229
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2229, which makes several changes to the licensure and continuing education requirements for licensed insurance agents in the state.

Under the umbrella of the Kansas Chamber is the Kansas Manufacturing Council, and the Kansas Retail Council. This issue was brought to us on behalf of the retail industry as they experience a significant increase in theft from customer's porches and mailboxes. As consumer behavior mixed with the COVID-19 crisis drives consumer purchasing faster towards online shopping, it's important to hold those accountable who choose to steal property from others..

According to a 2019 study by [C&R research](#) nearly 1/3 of Americans have been a victim of package and/or mail theft. The patchwork for state laws attempting to address mail theft does not currently exist. We have heard from law enforcement that lack of clear and consistent applicable statutes under which to charge porch pirates is an obstacle in combatting the problem. Therefore, we would ask for your support of HB 2229.

HB 2229 would create a consistent statute for mail theft across the state of Kansas. HB 2229 would also extend protections to all types of mail, regardless of the delivery location, or what type of carrier delivers it- further protecting residents.

In conclusion, we believe that all mail deserves to be protected and all residents deserve this protection and we urge you to support House Bill 2229. I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.