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**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee
In Support of SB473
February 15, 2024**

Chairperson Warren and Committee Members:

Our associations requested this bill as a matter of increasing efficiency for our officers. Many offenders who are taken into custody for minor misdemeanor offenses are immediately bonded out upon presentation at the county jail on an OR bond. In most of these cases, they are out of jail on bond before our officers are back on the street.

In addition to that time at the jail, is the expenditure of personnel resources for the travel time to take the person to the jail and return to duties in their assigned areas. We now have 11 counties that no longer operate their own jail, contracting for jail services in a neighboring county. Even when the jail is in the arresting agency's county you are typically looking at minimum time of a half-hour, and in most cases longer to transport the person arrested to the county jail only to have them sign a piece of paper and be released. With the use of a combined Notice to Appear and Complaint, when it is appropriate to the situation, we could achieve the same result by letting them sign the Notice to Appear.

These crimes are typically handled with a Notice to Appear with complaint form in municipal courts for comparable city ordinance violations. There are only a few select criminal misdemeanors where a Notice to Appear Complaint is allowed in District Courts. Those are found listed in the Traffic Citation statute, KSA 8-2106.

The bill contains two limiting provisions:

1. It only applies to misdemeanor crimes that are not person misdemeanors. This avoids using it on serious misdemeanors and still requires the booking into jail for those crimes along with the long form complaint process. This would also exclude the crimes where a mandatory arrest is required by law.
2. It would only be implemented after a discussion between the law enforcement agency and the County/District Attorney results in a written memorandum of agreement which would contain the logistics of required law enforcement reports and the format and content of the combined Notice to Appear Complaint form.

We urge the Committee to move the bill forward favorably.

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