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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**KEITH ESAU**  
14TH DISTRICT

TESTIMONY ON HB2700

Chairman Estes and Members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee:

I come before you in support of HB 2700 - requiring redaction of social security numbers in documents available for public inspection and copying.

After the news reports in February of the disclosure of the last 4 digits of some state employees and elected officials on the Statement of Substantial interest forms by the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission through the Secretary of State's website, I became concerned that there might be other areas where the laws in Kansas might also require certain disclosures, but do not make exceptions for removing certain private information on those forms.

Rather than searching for all the possible places that this might happen, I asked the revisors for a simpler solution. HB 2700 was the result. While certain documents require a social security number for identification purposes internally and for purposes of searching for a document, there is no need for the public to have access to that information when that information is displayed on the web. This bill simply requires any public display of a document to have any portion of the social security number redacted.

In the House committee, we addressed the concerns of the courts and the registrars of deeds to provide the same exception they currently have. On the House floor, an amendment was added to provide one year of credit monitoring to individuals whose personal information was improperly disclosed.

I urge your support of HB 2700 and I am happy for stand for any questions at the appropriate time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Esau".

Representative Keith Esau  
House District 14