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**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee
In support of SB378
March 7, 2018**

Chairman Wilborn and Committee Members,

Our associations support SB378 which will create a specific crime of counterfeiting currency. When we were first approached about this bill we reached out to our membership to ask if there was a need for a specific counterfeiting state statute. The responses we receive were overwhelmingly in support of the bill.

Most of our agencies responding to our query told us their local businesses are suffering losses due to counterfeit currency. Most of these cases are not those in which we can prove the manufacturing of counterfeit currency and were not cases of possession of the very large quantity of counterfeit bills, the typical requirements for federal prosecution.

Our local law enforcement agencies are currently taking reports from businesses on these crimes. However, we were unable to identify how many of those cases are reported because they are mixed in with reports of other types of forgery, making a false information, or theft cases. We found most agencies are currently also investigating those cases reported to them.

We were told by our members that some prosecutors were attempting to use other state statutes to charge these perpetrators when appropriate, such as making false information or forgery, but those didn't work well in some courts. We were also told some prosecutors simply would not charge because no state law clearly covered the crime. And, we were told the federal prosecutors commonly will not accept cases other than cases involving the persons actually printing the counterfeit currency or a person in possession of a very large sum of counterfeit currency.

We believe the counterfeiting law created in this statute is necessary to bring justice on behalf of Kansas businesses being victimized by this criminal act. We urge you to move this bill forward favorably for passage.

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