



**Senate Committee on Judiciary
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 408
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Madam Chair 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 Senate Bill 408, which increases penalties for mail theft.

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. Consumer behavior shifted even more aggressively throughout the pandemic toward online shopping. Because of this change, it's important to hold those accountable who steal property from others and strengthen Kansas laws to mirror the state's shoplifting statutes.

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. Our members have asked for input from law enforcement and learned that the 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 SB 408.

SB 408 would create a consistent statute for mail theft across the state of Kansas. The bill 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 Senate Bill 408. I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.

