



**KANSAS
TRIAL LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION**

To: Rep. Fred Patton, Chair
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Callie Jill Denton, Executive Director
Kansas Trial Lawyers Association

Date: March 8, 2023

Re: SB 243 as amended. Proponent - New Section 1 (h)

The Kansas Trial Lawyers Association is an organization of Kansas personal injury and workers compensation litigators. KTLA supports the right to trial by jury and access to courts. KTLA appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 243, as amended.

SB 258 as amended will address a variety of situations in which a person acts on behalf of a minor to negotiate, settle, and manage the financial proceeds of a settlement agreement until the minor reaches the age of 18. KTLA's primary focus is on insurance claims settled by a parent on behalf of a minor.

KTLA worked with proponents and stakeholders prior to the Senate hearing. Our concerns were addressed with the language in New Sec. 1(h), page 4 lines 5-13, which preserves the status quo for "friendly" settlement hearings:

- A district court may approve settlements of \$25,000 and less without establishing a guardianship, limited guardianship, or conservatorship;
- New Sec. 1(h) clarifies that the cost of filing the "friendly" settlement hearing is allowed to the party in whose favor judgment is rendered, consistent with current practice in "friendly" settlement hearings and law, KSA 60-2002.

As the committee considers SB 243, KTLA respectfully requests support for New Sec. 1(h) as it currently exists in the bill. Thank you.