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March 07, 2023

To: Chairwoman Kellie Warren, Vice-Chair Wilborn, Ranking Member Corson,
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Representative Barbara W. Ballard
District 44 - Lawrence

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2027

Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I submit this testimony in support of HB 2027. Representative Barb Wasinger (District 111-Hays) and I were the co-sponsors of this legislation. Representative Wasinger's constituent brought this urgent need for change after the tragic murder of his own mother. Death is difficult under normal circumstances, but when it is an intra-family assault, survivors are left to cope with greater trauma.

This legislation addresses a void in the Kansas probate statutes. No one should be allowed to financially benefit or profit from killing another person. Passage of HB 2027 will create a procedure to prevent distribution of assets until there is a resolution of criminal proceedings. The legislation allows for probate proceedings to pause if the beneficiary is arrested for or charged with the killing, or procuring the killing, of the victim. If the beneficiary is found guilty at trial, the bill removes them from eligibility in probate proceedings. The bill requires the Court to finalize the probate process should charges be dismissed or the beneficiary is acquitted

I urge the members of this committee to favorably pass HB 2027. I am happy to stand for questions.

Sincerely,

Representative Barbara W. Ballard
House District 44 – Lawrence