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REBECCA SCHMOE
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Senate Committee on Judiciary

HB2350 Creating the crimes of human smuggling and aggravated human smuggling and providing penalties therefor

Oral in-person testimony

Chair Warren and Committee Members,

We have an opportunity before us to not only protect Kansas citizens and our members of Law Enforcement, but to also take a much-needed step in holding people accountable for their role in victimizing those who are being smuggled into and through Kansas. Some of the people being smuggled are promised opportunities for a better life, when in reality they are often times being lied to, threatened, and abused, sometimes resulting in deadly consequences, as their smuggler moves them from point A to wherever they determine point B to be.

This is a known loophole in the current law, which the other Proponents will address.

As you are listening to the conferees, I would like you to keep in mind that if the smuggler were to be moving drugs, they could be held accountable.

However, since they are moving human beings instead of drugs, they are released without consequence.

Committee, I know that you and I, even if we disagree on other policies and politics, we can agree that people, human beings, are far more valuable than drugs. The fact that we can hold someone accountable for smuggling drugs, but not people is egregious, and I look forward to working with you to shore up this law in order to protect our communities and our fellow man while hold those engaged in act of smuggling humans accountable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Representative Rebecca Schmoe