



Kansas Sheriffs Association

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Sheriff Sandy Horton, Ret., Executive Director

March 4, 2016

Testimony in Support of HB2503

Chairman Ron Ryckman and the House Appropriations Committee -

The Kansas Sheriffs' Association appears today in support of passing House Bill 2503, creating the Kansas Highway Patrol Staffing and Training Fund and adding a \$2.00 increase in vehicle registration fees for this Fund. The Kansas Highway Patrol, like Sheriff's Offices across the State of Kansas, is facing challenges in hiring Troopers. KHP was staffed with 501 Troopers in 2006, however today that number has decreased to 419. Many times this loss in staffing prohibits KHP from assisting local law enforcement agencies when needed. Oftentimes, for rural Sheriffs, assistance from the KHP is heavily relied upon.

Troopers within Counties provide backup for all law enforcement, along with working traffic within Counties when Deputies are providing other services to the citizens. Many rural Counties depend on Troopers to work fatality and other accidents, due to their expertise. At this time, some Kansas Counties do not have any Troopers assigned to their area at all, which also takes away from the Counties who do have Troopers assigned.

Thanks for allowing me to appear today.

/s/ Sheriff Jeff Herrig
Jefferson County Sheriff
KSA Executive Board