



# Kansas Sheriffs Association

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Sheriff Sandy Horton, Ret., Executive Director

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB335

March 7, 2016

Chairman Ryckman and Committee Members,

The Kansas Sheriff's Association is in full support of Senate Bill 335 – "An act concerning motor vehicles; relating to vehicle registration, fees; creating the Kansas highway patrol staffing and training fund; law enforcement training center fund; amending K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 8-145 *{and 74-5619}* and repealing the existing section *{sections}*."

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.

The Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center is a vital part of building the integrity, knowledge, and skills of Kansas law enforcement officers. Their training contribution does not stop at the recruit level of training. They are instrumental in supplying ongoing training at the Hutchinson facility, across the state at classroom events, and on-line training. The training provided assures consistency across our state in law enforcement services. The people of Kansas deserve well trained officers providing their law enforcement services.

Unfortunately, the funding mechanism for the Training Center for years has relied on docket fees. Those fees have been steadily diminishing over the past several years due to a decrease in cases. The Training Center cannot go unaffected by these reductions in funding. Either additional funding is found or the Training Center will be forced to reduce training programs for Kansas law enforcement. This would be very detrimental to our communities.

We encourage you to support this bill and recommend it favorably for passage.

/s/ Sheriff Frank Denning  
Legislative Chair