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**Testimony to the House Federal and State Affairs Committee
In Support of HB2549
February 4, 2016**

Chair Pauls and Committee Members,

Our associations support HB2549. During the interim, significant time was invested in modifying the approach to this very important concept of facilitating immediate emergency responses by law enforcement across state lines. Of course these events happen more frequently where large metro areas straddle state lines. But our associations also recognized they occur all around our state on a regular basis and affect not just border counties.

We clearly cannot have officers running back and forth across state lines on their own whim. They must be invited into our jurisdictions, absent fresh pursuit. To this end, and to accommodate a variety of approaches to such authorizations preferred by agency heads, this bill provides that decision be made by the agency head or their designee. This allows flexibility based on every jurisdictions comfort level of who can make that decision.

It is critical in these interstate events we assure law enforcement officers operating outside their state of jurisdiction be given limited authority, including arrest powers and use of appropriate force. The bill applies the Kansas statutes on arrest and use of force to officers from out of state.

It is also critical that when such arrests are made, the person in custody is immediately transferred to an officer having jurisdiction at the point of arrest. Requiring the arresting officer to document their actions and the basis of the arrest is also critical.

Another important point of the law is to assure officers outside of their home state are protected from liability concerns and the responsible work comp coverage is clarified. This bill clarifies those issues.

This bill has addressed the concerns of our associations. We believe this bill is good public policy and clarifies interstate assistance responsibilities and legalities. We urge you to recommend this bill favorably for passage.

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