

CITY OF ANDOVER

ANDOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Public Service Excellence thru Compassion, Integrity & Commitment

February 3, 2016

Testimony before the House Judiciary Committee in

Support of HB2553 - Funding for the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training (KSCPOST)

Chairman Barker and Committee Members:

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the House Judiciary Committee. I am Michael Keller, Chief of Police for the City of Andover. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee today regarding House Bill 2553, a bill that proposes much needed funding for the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training (KSCPOST).

I come to you today, not only as a Police Chief for almost 15-years, but also as a current commissioner of the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training, originally appointed by Governor Parkinson in 2009 and re-appointed by Governor Brownback in 2012. Over the past 7-years, I have personally witnessed KSCPOST make tremendous strides in the development and growth of an agency, to where it is now, today, truly having an impact on the quality and professionalism of Kansas law enforcement. KSCPOST is committed to providing the citizens of Kansas with qualified, trained, ethical, competent, and professional peace officers. And never in my 35 plus years of law enforcement experience, has there been a time where integrity and professionalism in law enforcement been more needed. Kansas has not experienced the law enforcement issues, or levels of citizen dissatisfaction that other states have endured around the country, and I believe that that is because of the quality and consistency of the training that KLETC puts out, and the maintenance of training and professional standards that KSCPOST ensures.

KSCPOST, although funded solely through Municipal Court Docket fees, is responsible for the certification of all Kansas law enforcement officers, approximately 7,500 State, County and Municipal officers. Additionally, KSCPOST is responsible for maintaining the Central Registry, a data base that contains the hiring and training records of these officers and deputies from 429 different law enforcement agencies in Kansas. Finally, KSCPOST is also responsible for the investigation of improper conduct committed by officers throughout the State, and in the past two years, KSCPOST, with a limited staff of only 4 part-time investigators, has taken de-certification actions against 81 law enforcement officers. These are 81 individuals that might otherwise still be out on the street "protecting or citizens" had it not been for the work of KSCPOST.

In addition to maintaining an adequate operating budget, KSCPOST is in need of a new, up-to-date Central Registry database, capable of tracking the certifications of the current 7,500 officers across the state, as well as safely maintaining over twenty eight thousand agency and law enforcement officer records currently in their files. The crashing of the current system and loss of that information could be devastating to the hiring processes of law enforcement agencies across Kansas.

High law enforcement standards and quality training for our police officers is a core government function and the citizens in our communities deserve officers of the highest standards, and with the best training. KSCPOST is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring the maintenance of those high standards and quality training. I appeal to you to pass HB2553 and ensure that KSCPOST has the funding that they need and safeguard the professionalism of Kansas law enforcement.



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