

CITY OF SHAWNEE

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SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING ON HB 2549

Written Testimony in Support of HB 2549 on behalf of the City of Shawnee

By Katie Killen, Assistant City Manager

March 16, 2016

Honorable Chair and members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee:

The City of Shawnee recognizes the importance of putting specific laws in place to protect Kansas law enforcement officers and provide necessary assistance when responding to critical incidents across state lines. That is why the Shawnee Governing Body included specific language regarding this mutual aid issue as one of its 2016 state legislative priorities stating:

The City supports mutual aid legislation, which would allow law enforcement agencies to work cooperatively with their counterparts in adjoining states. Such agreements are crucial to the protection of life by providing law enforcement officers the legal authority to act during a hostile event requiring immediate response to an emergency. Recent active shooter incidents, and the continued threat of terrorism, further demonstrate the need for this legislation.

Missouri has already enacted legislation that is similar to what you have before you. This legislation is something the law enforcement community has spent considerable time researching. We believe this version of the legislation, which has been vetted by the House over the last two sessions, addresses the concerns that came out of discussions on the previous bill, HB 2007, from last year.

We encourage you to join with your colleagues from Missouri in passing this legislation for the State of Kansas in order to put such laws into effect.

Thank you for your consideration.



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