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**Testimony to the Senate Select Committee on KPERS
In Support of SB284
March 17, 2015**

Chairman King and Committee Members,

Our associations support the Deferred Retirement Option Program proposed in SB284. The DROP program has been proven in other states to help agencies retain experienced officers eligible for retirement. As we understand it, this program will not negatively affect the KP&F Retirement System.

The recruitment of qualified law enforcement applicants to fill vacancies is an issue most agencies are struggling with today. The DROP program will not only help in slowing down the number of vacancies to fill, but will give agencies more lead time to plan for the retirement vacancies and to be more proactive in filling them.

We believe the DROP program is an excellent option for Kansas law enforcement officers and agencies to maximize the retention of quality officers. We urge you to pass SB284 favorably.

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