



OFFICE of the SHERIFF
WYANDOTTE COUNTY
710 NORTH 7TH STREET, SUITE 20
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101-3093

PHONE: (913) 573-2861
FAX: (913) 573-2972

DONALD ASH
SHERIFF
LARRY ROLAND
UNDERSHERIFF

January 25, 2016

**Testimony Before the Senate Transportation Committee in Support of SB335 –
Funding for the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center**

Chairman Petersen and Committee Members,

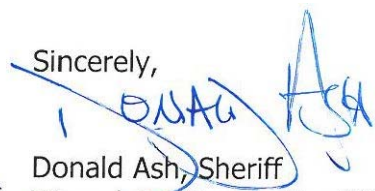
I am writing this letter of support of SB 335 which provides critical funding that will allow the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC) to continue providing high quality training to Kansas law enforcement officers in a rapidly changing public safety environment. As the Sheriff of Wyandotte County, Kansas my department sends annually to KLETC 8-12 deputies to receive law enforcement basic training as required by Kansas law. It would be cost prohibitive for my agency to pay the costs associated with their 14-weeks of basic training.

As most everyone is aware, court docket fees that fund KLETC have continued a downward spiral for the past five years. Those docket fees are the primary funding source for KLETC. The revenue proposed in SB335, through the establishment of an increased \$2 passenger vehicle registration fee would help sustain current operations, address delayed infrastructure maintenance and equipment needs, and allow KLETC a projected 6-8 years of operating funds. The revenue received from the \$2 vehicle registration fee increase would be in addition to the current revenue received from court docket fees. Enactment of a \$2 vehicle registration fee earmarked specifically for KLETC would provide a diversified revenue stream thereby relieving the burden on a single funding source – court docket fees.

Kansas sheriffs and police chiefs rely on the stability of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center to provide the mandated basic training so that our deputies and police officers can provide quality, safe, professional law enforcement services not only to the citizens of Wyandotte County, but also the citizens of Kansas. One of the core functions of government is to ensure the safety of our citizens and communities. As you can see from recent events across our nation, public safety is paramount in today's environment.

I would ask that your committee please give your full consideration to this important piece of legislation and pass this bill as written favorably out of your committee.

Sincerely,


Donald Ash, Sheriff
Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office