



KANSAS STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Sage Hill, President
Kansas State Troopers Association

Re: Proponent for Senate Bill 156

Date: March 10, 2025

Chairwoman Humphries and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Kansas State Troopers Association in support of SB 156. I am Sage Hill, appearing here in my capacity as the President of the Kansas State Troopers Association (KSTA).

The KSTA represents over 500 Troopers, motor carrier inspectors, capital police officers, and retirees. Our members serve the citizens of Kansas in the traditional role of supporting and keeping Kansans safe on the highways, as well as drug interdiction, DUI enforcement, serving in special operations units like the Special Response Team, the Aircraft Unit (of which I am a member), and Canine. Our Troop K members (Capitol Police) are here each day to keep you safe as you serve in this beautiful building.

The Kansas State Troopers Association strongly supports Senate Bill 156. The State of Kansas does not have statutory prohibitions regarding the dangerous/ nefarious use of laser pointers against aircraft. Thanks to the Kansas Legislature, the Kansas Highway Patrol has a meaningful and increased presence in the air. The use of laser pointers against our aircraft has skyrocketed during law enforcement events, and we are not alone. Civilian air traffic, often large commercial planes carrying passengers, as well as our military partners, heavy tankers landing and departing McConnell AFB for example, have all seen an increase in these incidents.

Striking an aircraft with a laser can disrupt instrumentation and be completely disorienting to the flight crew. It is punishable both civilly and criminally at the federal

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