

**Written Testimony on Senate Bill 263
Before the Senate Education Committee
Mark Engholm, State Fire Marshal
February 27, 2025**

Chairperson, Vice Chair, Ranking Member and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on Kansas Senate Bill 263, which provides guidance to school administrators and local public safety officials on the proper methods for holding active shooter drills and active shooter simulations.

During the 30 years that I have served in law enforcement, I have been an active participant in planning for active shooter incidents and providing training to school staff, office workers, and first responders on how to properly react to an active shooter incident. When I entered law enforcement, active shooters were not common, and it was not until the tragedy at Columbine High School in 1999 that I received my first training on how to respond to and stop an active shooter. I believe that the guidance in this bill for conducting active shooter drills and simulations in schools is necessary and provides a commonsense approach that balances the needs of schools, students, parents, and public safety agencies.

Our agency does not have any concerns with implementing or enforcing the language in the bill.

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