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**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee
In Support of HB2613 as Amended by the House Committee
March 8, 2012**

Chairman Owens and Committee Members,

The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kansas Sheriffs Association, and the Kansas Peace Officers Association support HB2613 as amended by the House committee. Many criminal victims live under an umbrella of fear for many years after being subjected to a criminal act. This is especially true of person crimes. In too many cases, such fear is justified. When victims have to repeatedly face their attackers in court, many will relive the trauma of the crime. While we understand there is no way to eliminate all courtroom confrontations between the victim and the offender, it is not unreasonable to limit such contacts when possible and within parameters protecting the rights of the defendant.

We realize that protection orders do not mean that the defendant will never violate the order. Many do violate and present a direct threat to the victim. However, the protection order provides law enforcement a critical tool to take action against a defendant violating the order in the earliest stages. In many cases this allows for the arrest of the defendant prior to causing any physical harm to the protected party.

The proposed amendments are reasonable extensions of the time period of protection orders. It provides judges the discretion to apply such orders for an extended period of time in the interest of protecting victims of a person felony.

We encourage you to recommend HB2613 as amended by the House Committee favorably for passage.

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