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March 7, 2016

**Testimony Before the House Appropriations Committee in Support of Substitute for
SB335 – Funding for the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center
and the Kansas Highway Patrol**

Chairman Ryckman and Committee Members,

I am writing this letter of support of Sub. for SB335 which will allow the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC) to properly train Kansas law enforcement officers in a 21st century legal environment. As the Sheriff of Wyandotte County, Kansas I send between 8-12 deputies per year to KLETC to obtain their basic officer certification. It would be cost prohibitive for me and all of my peers to pay that tuition.

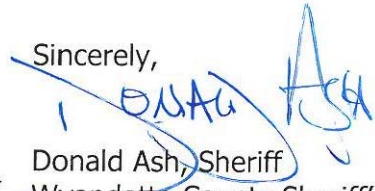
Court docket fees that fund KLETC have experienced continual decline the past several years. Those fees are a primary funding source for the training facility and the revenue proposed to be received from a new \$2.00 passenger car tag registration fee increase would help sustain current operations, and allow KLETC a projected 6-8 years of operating funds. This would be in addition to current revenue from docket fees, but it would provide diversified revenue streams thereby relieving the burden on a one source system.

Most of the county Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police throughout the state rely on the stability of KLETC to provide this required certification training so that we can provide quality, safe, professional law enforcement services to the citizens of Kansas, large numbers of commercial carriers and others in business, and an ever growing tourist population. It is a core function of government to ensure the safety of our citizens and communities.

Additionally, as Sheriff of Wyandotte County I fully support the efforts of the Kansas Highway Patrol to hire, train and retain additional troopers to help ensure the safety of our state.

I'd like to call on all Senators and Representatives in the Kansas legislature to give your full support to this important legislation; nothing less than the safety and security of our citizens and communities depends on it.

Sincerely,


Donald Ash, Sheriff
Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office