



MCPHERSON

K A N S A S

Police Department

Chief of Police
Robert D. McClarty

1177 W. Woodside • McPherson, KS 67460
Office (620) 245-1200 • Fax (620) 245-1213

Assistant Chief
Michael N. Terry

March 7, 2016

Written Testimony in Support of Substitute for SB335
Before the House Appropriations Committee by McPherson Chief of Police, Robert McClarty

Chairman Ryckman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of McPherson and the McPherson Police Department, I am providing this written testimony in support of Substitute for SB335. As the Bill is currently written, it provides a continued annual revenue source to fund and support the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC) and the Kansas Highway Patrol. These two entities both play a vital role in Kansas law enforcement successes.

The public has growing expectations of the services, care, and professionalism of the officers who respond to calls for service. The external and internal demands which are placed on police performance continue to rise. Officers are expected to respond and resolve an ever growing variety of emergent situations, regardless of the circumstances. With funding resources diminishing for local governments, State funding for KLETC is essential in maintaining the training and education of Kansas Peace Officers. The KLETC training affords Kansas officers the ability to meet the demands their communities place upon them. KLETC provides new officers basic training and Kansas Peace Officer Certification, and also provides veteran officers a wide variety of continuing education courses to maintain their capabilities. KLETC provides what some refer to as "the Gold Standard of Training for Law Enforcement Officers". This standard provides a uniform training platform which allows for cooperation and interoperability between local, state, and federal agencies. I believe KLETC provides a high quality knowledge base to build upon; agencies are then afforded an opportunity to maintain that standard throughout an officer's career through continuing education seminars and courses. The standard of training Kansas Peace Officers receive is truly second to none.

KLETC helps provide our community and communities across the State with qualified, well trained, ethical, competent, and professional officers. The diverse, academic, and hands-on training programs provide professional, credible, viable, realistic, and necessary training which truly benefits all officers, their agencies, and the communities they serve. Currently, KLETC does not charge fees for the basic academy and only minimal fees for the continuing education courses they provide. This affordable training allows Kansas law enforcement officers to meet the essential training hour requirements placed upon them.

As the Chief of Police of a mid-sized department (34 sworn officers) in the heart of Kansas, I believe the funding provided by Substitute for SB335 is essential. This funding maintains KLETC's contemporary best practices, which are responsible for ensuring the professionalism, competency, and effectiveness of our law enforcement we Kansans enjoy today. The Kansas Highway Patrol provides vital services to assist local agencies in their public safety efforts, efforts that McPherson depends upon and this funding supports their ability to so.

In closing, I strongly support Substitute for SB335 as it is designed to further KLETC's ability to train and support the law enforcement officers which serve communities across Kansas and supports the Kansas Highway Patrol in their efforts to provide essential public safety service.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chief Robert McClarty".

Robert McClarty
Chief of Police ~ McPherson, KS