



Administrative
(785) 826-7210

CITY OF SALINA

DEPARTMENT OF

POLICE

Fax
(785) 826-6515



255 NORTH TENTH STREET
SALINA, KANSAS 67401

**Written Testimony to the House Appropriations Committee
In Support of Substitute for SB335**

March 7, 2016

As the Chief of Police in Salina, I bring a rather unique perspective to the topic of funding for law enforcement officers. I say that as I have only been a law enforcement officer in Kansas for two years. However, I have 29 years of law enforcement experience in our neighbor to the east, Missouri.

Missouri does not have a statewide law enforcement training center such as the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC). Missouri officers not hired by larger agencies such as Kansas City, St. Louis or Springfield are required to attend one of many commissioned law enforcement academies located throughout the state. There are presently 12 academies not aligned with specific big city departments in Missouri. As one can imagine, these academies vary vastly in their quality of instructors, facilities and overall professionalism.

Salina is very fortunate that the state of Kansas provides a law enforcement training center of the caliber of the KLETC. Since my arrival, we have had 27 graduates of the KLETC and I have attended each graduation. I have been very impressed with the caliber of training, knowledge and experience each of these officers have brought back to our department upon the completion of the 14-week program. It has proven to be a solid foundation for these young officers to build on as they progress in their careers.

Unequivocally, I can attest to the professionalism of the entire staff at KLETC which is a direct reflection on its director, Ed Pavey. I have firsthand knowledge of the staff members and the facilities as I attended a 40-hour Reciprocity Course in 2014.

Kansas is fortunate to have a centrally located law enforcement training facility which provides standardized training for its law enforcement officers.

Without hesitation, I support Substitute for SB335 presently in the legislature to help fund the KLETC. It is imperative to municipalities and counties throughout this great state that this exemplary training center continue to be funded for the welfare and safety of those we are entrusted to protect.

This bill also includes funding for the Kansas Highway Patrol. I, too, strongly support the KHP's efforts to place more troopers on our highways. The city of Salina is fortunate to have the KHP Training Academy located here in Salina. Our relationship with the Patrol is excellent and their presence in our city and county is greatly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad L. Nelson". The signature is stylized with a large initial "B" and a cursive "L".

Brad L. Nelson
Chief of Police