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**Testimony to the House Education Committee
In Support of HB2099
February 13, 2015**

Chairman Highland and Committee Members,

Our associations support HB2099. When we polled our legislative committees the response was overwhelming and every response was to support the bill.

Law enforcement relies on data driven decisions to address community issues. Some data can help us determine areas where we need to focus education and awareness efforts. Such is the case with the Communities That Care Survey which appears to have been negatively affected by the legislation passed last year. This survey provides information on trends among our youth that are very useful to law enforcement safety programs.

When I polled our legislative committee on this bill, several responded the data in the Communities That Care Survey had been helpful to them in several ways. Not only did they relate alerting them to developing issues but they also used the data to help get grants to address those issues.

For example, several years ago it was this survey that identified a trend of drug and alcohol use increasing markedly in the middle school grades. This allowed us to conduct programs with students and parents on awareness and prevention.

While we certainly are keenly aware of privacy issues, we believe even with the amendments proposed in HB2099 the proper safeguards are in place to assure anonymity and the options on the part of both students and parents to not participate if they choose not to.

Local law enforcement encourages you to recommend this bill favorably.

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