



Olathe Police Department

501 East 56 Highway • Olathe, Kansas 66061

Steven Menke
Chief of Police

January 21st, 2015

To Members of the Kansas Legislature,

I am writing this letter of support for House Bill 2007 which concerns creating a law enforcement mutual aid region for critical incidents for the nine county region (bi-state) in the Kansas City metropolitan area. As you are likely aware, a similar law has been passed and signed in Missouri during their last legislative session. For that law to be enacted, Kansas must pass a similar law.

As it stands, current Kansas state laws do not provide for law enforcement mutual aid across state lines during critical incidents, except for hot pursuit scenarios. Because of this gap in legislation, a Kansas law enforcement officer lacks the legal authority to respond into a neighboring Missouri jurisdiction (and vice versa) during a critical life threatening incident even though that officer may be the closest to the incident and may be requested by the other jurisdiction. House Bill 2007 clearly delineates that the mutual aid must be requested by the neighboring jurisdiction and must be in response to a "critical incident" that could result in serious physical injury or loss of life. This bill would allow for those immediate emergency responses to critical incidents across the state line for the nine county region.

As the police chief of the fourth largest city in the state and representing a jurisdiction that can both benefit from and offer assistance to other law enforcement agencies in the described region during critical incidents, I endorse this bill wholeheartedly and request your support in passing this important public safety legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Menke'.

Steve Menke

Chief of Police

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