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MITCH HOLMES
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BARTON, EDWARDS, HODGEMAN, KIOWA, LANE, NESS,
PAWNEE, PRATT, RICE, RUSH, SCOTT & STAFFORD COUNTIES

Testimony in support of
SB 224
January 28, 2016

I stand in support of SB 224 as one of the legislative members on the KS Board of EMS. This bill was passed out of committee two years ago, but failed to receive 21 votes in the full chamber. I supported this bill before serving on the Board. I was appointed to fill the vacancy when Senator Emler was confirmed to the KCC, and was assigned to the Investigations Committee. The support I had for this bill based on testimony two years ago has been solidified now that I have experienced first-hand the investigation of complaints.

The previous bill's defeat resulted from a fear among senators that this was giving an unprecedented expansion of power to a regulatory agency. In reality, this is not the case. There are perhaps 12-15 regulatory boards in Kansas that currently have subpoena authority. These include the Board of Accountancy, Board of Healing Arts, Board of Veterinarian Examiners, the Dental Board, Board of Mortuary Arts, etc.

In the short time I have served on KBEMS, I have seen a wide scope of complaints with some being somewhat bizarre. I've experienced the difficulty in arriving at a just conclusion. This bill will go a long way to achieving a more thorough investigation and a better way to apply disciplinary action when necessary. I ask your support in advancing this bill from committee; and in persuading the full House of its benefit of assuring a quality EMS system in Kansas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Holmes".