



Fairway Police Department
Fairway, Kansas
Michael Fleming, Chief of Police



February 17, 2016

Hon. John Barker, Chairmen
House Judiciary Committee
State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas

Re: House Bill 2678

Dear Representative Barker,

My name is Mike Fleming and I am the Chief of Police in Fairway, Kansas. I have been a certified police officer since 1984 and have served with the Fairway Police Department since 1989. I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2678 that would require the Kansas Attorney General's Office to investigate and prosecute cases relating to the death of a person caused by a law enforcement officer.

I oppose the bill as I believe it would adversely impact public safety in Kansas. The responsibilities involved in the investigation, gathering of evidence, interviewing witnesses and other involved parties, lab work, and if needed, the prosecution of such a case should be handled by the best qualified individuals available to the jurisdiction in which the incident occurred. In Johnson County, Kansas the resources available to law enforcement to accomplish these tasks are, in my opinion, the best in the State of Kansas and should remain with individuals who have the training and experience to accomplish them.



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The financial impact to the State of Kansas is another consideration that needs to be addressed. The resources that law enforcement across Johnson County have invested in personnel and equipment to properly investigate such cases in tremendous. The Johnson County Sheriff's Office has in operation one of the best criminal forensics labs in the United States that is available to all law enforcement personnel in Johnson County. I also believe the policies and procedures instituted by their lab are second to none in assuring the integrity of any investigation. The financial impact on the state budget to staff and equip enough investigators to accomplish what House Bill 2678 requires would tax the budget of the State of Kansas even more in these delicate times.

Please share my comments with the members of your committee and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information or answer any questions. I can be reached at 913-262-2364 or by e-mail at mfleming@fairwaypd.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Fleming", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Fleming
Chief of police
Fairway, Kansas