

THOMAS T. HONGSLO-CHIEF OF POLICE



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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2549-An Act concerning law enforcement;
relating to requests for law enforcement assistance from foreign
jurisdictions.**

To: Honorable Chair Ralph Ostmeyer
Members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

From: Thomas Hongslo, Police Chief
City of Lenexa

Date: March 16, 2016

Honorable Chair and members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee, the Lenexa Police Department thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the topic of requests for law enforcement assistance from foreign jurisdictions.

I have been in law enforcement of 25 years and have witnessed the positive changes that law enforcement has initiated to keep our communities and officers safe. These changes have included advances in technology, equipment, information sharing, and community engagement. Law enforcement has also vastly improved in our ability to work collaboratively to train and solve problems.

We have seen critical incidents occur throughout the United States that involved a large contingent of law enforcement personnel and equipment working together to solve a crisis. We have also seen that no community is safe from these types of incidents and any given day it could occur in our communities. Lenexa, and many other Kansas communities, is near a state line and the laws do not allow for local law enforcement jurisdiction to extend across states line in the event of an emergency. In the event of a critical incident such as an active shooter, assistance and resources may be delayed or unable to respond due to legal jurisdictional concerns.

During a critical incident, time is of the essence and assistance must be provided quickly. My role as the Police Chief is to ensure that both the citizens and police officers are safe. This legislation will allow those in command at the incident level to request assistance from either side of a state line.

This legislation has the support of many law enforcement organizations that include the Kansas City Metropolitan Chief and Sheriffs Association, Kansas City Crime Commission, Johnson County Police Chiefs Association, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Sheriffs Association and the Kansas Peace Officers Association.

Due to the many critical incidents that have occurred in this nation, from both domestic and foreign instigators, law enforcement agencies are working collaboratively to improve our preparedness and response to critical incidents. In a time of crisis, the geographical location of a community should not be a factor in receiving needed manpower and resources.

I appreciate your leadership in taking this legislation under advisement.