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Written Statement to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
By Frank Donchez
HB 2549 – Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Region for Critical Incidents
March 16, 2016

Honorable Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs, the City of Overland Park provides this written statement in support of HB 2549.

On behalf of the Overland Park Police Department, our first and highest priority is the safety and welfare of the citizens of Overland Park, and the men and women who protect everyone. The City employs 250 commissioned officers, operating from four police stations throughout the City.

The City believes that it is in the interest of the greater community to ensure the public safety of its residents and by establishing a mutual aid region, local law enforcement agencies could provide a seamless system of public safety in the event of a critical incident. Presently, law enforcement officers are generally limited by K.S.A. 22-2401a to the physical boundaries of the City, with some exceptions allowed within the state. In addition, Kansas law enforcement officers generally do not have the jurisdictional ability to cross the state line in the event of a critical incident that would impact public safety. HB 2549 would establish such provisions and would provide guidelines, allowing for better public safety protection in the greater Kansas City Metro area.

The City would respectfully request your support in the passage of HB 2549.