



**Shawnee County
Sheriff's Office
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**Subject: Testimony to the Senate Transportation Committee
In Support of SB 355**

Chairman Mike Petersen and the Senate Transportation Committee

Since 1968, the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center has served as the central law enforcement training facility for our state. Moreover, Kansas law enforcement agencies and officers from all levels; municipal, county and state depend on KLETC as the key factor to improving law enforcement function properly. We, the Kansas law enforcement community are highly dependent on the support of KLETC for training throughout the year.

The Shawnee County Sheriff's Office is just one of the many Kansas law enforcement agencies that rely on KLETC's basic and continued education training programs. We have some of the finest professional law enforcement officers in the state as a result of the KLETC's training. Although I manage one of the larger sheriff's agencies in Kansas I do not have staffing to sustain a self sufficient training facility. Thus, all of my newly hired deputies are sent to KLETC for their basic training. They receive some of the most leading edge instruction offered by a training facility. Recently, I had three deputies graduate from the 237 Basic and two officers are currently enrolled in the 238 Basic. My plan is to send three more in the subsequent training session. Without the consistency of KLETC basic training I would not be able to equip adequate public safety personnel for the Shawnee county constituents. As you can see Shawnee County Sheriff's Office, like so many other Kansas law enforcement agencies, are highly dependent upon the course of instruction designated to fulfill the need for professional law enforcement.

KLETC provides both basic and mandated continued education training for all law enforcement. Over the last few years Director Ed Pavey and his staff developed a statewide comprehensive biased based training program. This program was a collaborative effort by Kansas Department of Transportation and the Kansas African American Affairs Commission essential to fulfill a mandatory training objective. To date, this particular training has been very instrumental in educating multitude of law enforcement officers in preempting racial profiling. Moreover, this training has been available year round. There are many examples of worthwhile training that has been offered to officers throughout the state.

Lastly, KLETC has sustained affordable training that reduces fiscal liabilities for law enforcement agencies from across the state. Their effort to manage contemporary and specialized training programs has been a true asset for all.

SB 335 will truly provide essential financial foundation to further public safety training that essential to the present day and future of law enforcement. I sincerely appreciate and encourage your recommendation for favorably passage of this bill.