



**Written Testimony to the House Local Government Committee
In Support of HB2506
January 23, 2018**

Chair Williams and Committee Members,

The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police supports HB2506 which will assist in dealing with abandoned dilapidated structures and providing a process for restoration of such properties. We believe the provisions of the bill have balanced the property interests of the owners with the public safety and neighborhood property value interests.

Blighted abandoned homes are a haven for drug activity, arson, metal thefts, and other crimes. They create a safety hazard for neighborhood children and create a place where children can become victims of violent crimes. They devalue neighboring properties and demoralize owners of neighboring properties leading to a downward spiral in the condition of all properties in a neighborhood.

Our cities continue to struggle with current legal limitations in dealing with these issues in a manner encouraging neighborhood preservation, pride and welcoming environment. This bill will provide a tool we desperately need. When we provided this proposal to our members, the response was overwhelming with strong statements of need. The time has come to move this bill forward.

We urge you to recommend this bill favorably for passage.

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