



**Testimony on Senate Bill 84
Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**Presented by
Colonel Mark Bruce
Kansas Highway Patrol**

January 31, 2017

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Colonel Mark Bruce, and on behalf of the members of the Kansas Highway Patrol, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today regarding Senate Bill 84. This bill allows for Officers and Troopers, that have been appointed to the rank of Major, be afforded the same deference that is currently allowed for Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent within the Kansas Highway Patrol.

As it states in current law, if a person is appointed as Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent, the person in each case, upon termination of that appointment, shall be returned to a rank of not lower than the rank the person held prior to the appointment. In 2015, the Legislature approved a Competitive Comprehensive Pay Plan specifically for the uniformed members of the Kansas Highway Patrol, which has significantly improved the Agency's hiring and retention concerns. During plan implementation, an unintended consequence was discovered that forced the rank of Major into unclassified service. Furthermore, the rank of Major no longer met any of the provisions set forth in statute nor any of the protections provided in classified service. Consequently, the individual holding this rank could be relegated back to the position of Trooper or even termination from the Agency upon the appointment of a new Superintendent. This revelation was not anticipated nor intended to create such a scenario for those eligible to attain the rank of Major.

The implementation of the Comprehensive Pay Plan has had a tremendous positive impact on the Patrol in a variety of ways and will no doubt sustain our efforts into the future. This change to the statute will provide clarity for the rank of Major, maintaining the Patrol's ability to attract and make qualified appointments, as well as bring in line the provisions already in place for the unclassified positions for Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

In closing, the Kansas Highway Patrol strongly encourages your support for adding the language provided in SB 84.

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