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Neutral Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary of HB2459

March 14, 2018

Chairman Wilborn and Committee Members,

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office provides neutral testimony for HB2459 relating to asset forfeiture.

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office is the largest law enforcement agency in the state and is responsible for the public safety of nearly 600,000 Kansas citizens. Approximately one-fifth of the entire state population lives in Johnson County. Our location in the Kansas/Missouri Metro places us in the transportation pipelines for both drug and human trafficking. Asset forfeiture is an effective tool to deter these types of crimes.

We are supportive of a reporting process that is transparent, and we agree that judicial safeguards should be in place. We also understand that some changes to our current statutes were needed to prevent potential abuses with the system. This bill is an improvement over the many bills that were offered in last year's session.

Thank you for allowing us to present our views on HB2459.

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