

To: Senate Judiciary

From: Chardae Caine, Research Associate

Date: February 6, 2019

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 45

I want to thank Chairman Wilborn and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 45.

SB 45 amends K.S.A. 21-5405 to increase involuntary manslaughter of a public safety sector employee to a level 2 person felony. In addition, aggravated battery felonies are strengthened to higher severities with amendments provided for K.S.A. 21-5413.

By increasing the penalties for involuntary manslaughter and aggravated battery on employees of law enforcement agencies, municipal fire departments, volunteer and non-volunteer fire protection associations, emergency management departments, and public works departments, the League believes this bill will increase the safety of municipal employees, and all Kansas residents. The League supports legislation helping to increase the safety of public safety sector employees.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the Committee pass SB 45 to the full Senate.