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**Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
In Support of HB2677**

February 15, 2022

Chairman Barker and Committee Members:

Our associations strongly support passage of HB2677 which would prohibit persons in charge of a building from requiring off-duty police officers from carrying a concealed handgun from providing personal information or wearing anything identifying such persons as a law enforcement officer or as being armed.

Since passage of the Kansas Personal and Family Protection Act, off-duty law enforcement officers who elect to carry a concealed handgun to locations or events have been forced to submit personal information. In some locations the off-duty officers are required to wear wrist bands to designate that the off-duty officer is carrying a concealed handgun. To object to the demand for information results in being denied entry or being asked to leave.

Here are two examples from my personal experience.

In Wichita, at Riverfront Stadium, I went to one of the opening season games. I parked and went to the northwest entrance. I provided my identification and advised the unarmed gate keeper that was checking persons entering the venue. I was stopped and an off-duty contracted police officer working at the venue was called over. I was escorted to the south side of the venue to a different entrance.

Once at the second entrance, I was required to provide my identification, which is not a problem. I was then required to fill out a document that consisted of my personal identifying information. The gate worker then took a photo of my identification. After filling out the "entry questionnaire", the gate worker pulled out a florescent wristband and advised that I was required to wear it. Only then was I allowed back into the venue, with the off-duty contracted police officer escorting me. I would have left at this point, but I had friends waiting for me.

In a second situation, one of my officers was escorted from Via Christi, St. Joseph Hospital in Wichita.

One of my officers was working when a friend called him. The friend was going through a mental crisis and asked for help. My officer took time off and went to the friend and took him to the hospital for a mental examination and treatment for this acute event. They arrived and went to the non-secure public waiting room area.

When informed by hospital staff that the off-duty officer's friend was going to be admitted, a nurse asked the off-duty officer if he wanted to see his friend before they took him upstairs. My officer told the staff member that he shouldn't go back to the secure area and explained that he was an off-duty police officer and had his off-duty weapon with him. The staff member walked away.

Moments after the staff member left, two armed security guards trotted toward my officer and demanded to know if he was armed. He explained that he was and offered to show his identification. He wanted to get permission to get his departmental ID from his pocket. He was told by both armed security guards that they did not care who he was that he couldn't have a weapon in the hospital. He was given the option of taking his off-duty weapon to his vehicle and returning inside or just leaving. He decided that since he had no lockable area in his truck, he would just leave. He was escorted from the hospital.

These are two examples from one person. There are hundreds of officers in our state. In speaking with our organizations members, these are not isolated incidents. This type of treatment occurs at many locations and venues across our state.

Our organizations don't believe it was the intent of the legislature when the Kansas Personal and Family Protection Act was passed that this type of treatment of law enforcement officers would occur.

HB2677, in our opinion, would resolve the issues we are experiencing and mesh with the original intent of the statute K.S.A.75-7c01 et seq.

Thank you for your consideration.

Darrell Atteberry  
Chief of Police  
Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police  
Legislative Chair