



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Kirk D. Thompson
Director

Derek Schmidt
Attorney General

Testimony before the House Judiciary Committee
Robert Jacobs, Executive Officer
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
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Chairman Patton and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of SB 419. The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) believes the provisions of SB 419 will provide Special Agents with the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) access to the same comprehensive training available to other law enforcement officers in Kansas. This training will allow KDOC Special Agents to continue to competently, legally, un-biasedly, and professionally perform their jobs.

In 2004, the Kansas Legislature passed K.S.A. 19-1935 requiring the KBI to initiate an investigation whenever a death occurs to a person in the custody of any city or county and K.S.A. 75-52,14, which requires the KBI to investigate whenever a death occurs of an inmate, who is in the custody of the secretary of corrections and who resides in a correctional facility or boot camp operated by or contracted through the secretary or of a juvenile, who is in the custody of the commissioner of juvenile justice and who resides in an institution operated by or contracted through the commissioner.

Since then, the KBI has worked collaboratively with the KDOC Enforcement, Apprehension, and Investigation (EAI) staff within each KDOC facility to successfully facilitate those investigations. Because this responsibility is statutorily given to the KBI, these investigations are conducted independent of KDOC. However, the EAI staff are often the “first responders” who secure and protect the scene when in-custody deaths occur. EAI staff work in a concerted effort to support KBI Special Agents toward the resolution of those investigations.

Additionally, over the years the KBI has offered and provided additional training to KDOC Special Agents and EAI staff through our Advanced Investigations Academy.

KDOC EAI Special Agents work side by side local and state law enforcement officers to apprehend absconders from parole supervision and those not complying with the requirements of the Kansas Offender Registration Act (KORA). EAI Special Agents also partner with local county and state law enforcement agencies as well as federal law enforcement agencies on fugitive task forces within Kansas.

KDOC Special Agents and EAI staff should have access to both the initial and on-going training necessary to provide the safe and equitable enforcement of Kansas laws. Officer safety, public

safety, and the safety of those in the custody of the State of Kansas will improve by granting a path for KDOC Special Agents to receive this important training.

The KBI is supportive of the provisions of SB 419 and believe the passage of this bill will help keep our communities safer. Furthermore, it will provide consistency in state and local law enforcement by ensuring that KDOC Special Agents are under the oversight of the Kansas Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (KCPOST).

The KBI encourages the committee to vote favorably for the passage of SB 419 and appreciates the committee's diligent consideration of this bill. Thank you.

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